



MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

**Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915,
and Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918.**

REPORT

UPON

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

For the Year 1931.

D. ROCYN JONES,

April 29th, 1932

County Medical Officer.

44

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
A. SUMMARY OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED	3
B. WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS	4
C. VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1930	10
D. DEDUCTIONS FROM THE COUNTY VITAL STATISTICS	12
E. MATERNAL MORTALITY AND ANTE-NATAL CARE	13
F. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES	22
G. DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT CENTRES	24
H. DETAILS OF MOTHERS' AILMENTS UPON WHICH ADVICE WAS GIVEN AT CENTRES	25
I. DETAILS OF INFANTS' AILMENTS UPON WHICH ADVICE WAS GIVEN AT CENTRES	26
J. REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF CENTRES	28
K. SALE OF FOODSTUFFS AT THE INFANT WELFARE CENTRES	54
L. INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES	56
M. PROVISION OF MIDWIVES FOR THE COUNTY	58
N. COUNTY SCHEME FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE	59
O. TRAINING OF THE ELDER GIRLS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	59
P. PROVISIONS FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CASES AT HOSPITALS, ETC.	60
Q. INFANT PROTECTION	64
R. CONCLUSIONS	64



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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNTY HALL,

NEWPORT,

29th April, 1932.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Seventeenth Annual Report upon the work done in connection with the Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918.

A.—SUMMARY OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED.

During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1931, there were notified to this Department, 6,296 births, as follows:—

	LIVING.	STILLBIRTHS.	TOTAL.
No. officially notified by persons in attendance	5906	305	6211
No. not directly notified to the County Medical Officer, but information received from other sources, viz.:			
District Registrars 	56	—	56
Health Visitors 	13	—	13
	5975	305	6280

Of the 6,211 notifications to this Department, midwives were responsible for 6,171, registered medical practitioners for 37 notifications and parents for 3 notifications. The percentage of births notified by midwives is 99.3 *which is a high figure compared with the percentage for England and Wales.*

The number of live births registered with the District Registrars during the year was 6,146, of which 96.09 per cent. were notified in compliance with the Notification of Births Acts. Of the remainder, 85 births were subsequently discovered, 69 through the District Registrars, and 16 through the Health Visitors, leaving 2.79 per cent. of the registered births unaccounted for. This percentage is higher than usual and it is probably explained by the omission of certain registrars to notify regularly births registered but not notified.

B.—WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS.

The work of the Health Visitors in respect of School Medical Inspection and Maternity and Child Welfare is co-ordinated excepting at Ebbw Vale and Abertillery where the County Health Visitors undertake Maternity and Child Welfare work only, as those areas are autonomous under the Education Act, 1902.

Five of the County Health Visitors are engaged in School Medical Inspection work only, as they have not been approved by the Ministry of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare work. The Ministry now require for all new appointments that nurses appointed as Health Visitors shall hold the Health Visitors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

There were at the end of the year 31 Health Visitors on the staff, excluding those who are only engaged in school work. In addition the Lecturer in Nursing under the Higher Education Committee devotes part of her time to Maternity and Child Welfare work. The apportionment of the time of the Health Visitors to Maternity and Child Welfare works out at approximately 20.

The Maternity and Child Welfare duties of the Health Visitors include attendance at Welfare Centres and Ante-natal Clinics and the home visitation of infants up to the age of five years.

All infants are visited soon after the tenth day, and during the first year of life at intervals of three months, excepting those who at the first visit are found to be in homes where they are well cared for. The visit at nine months is important because of the advice with regard to weaning of breast-fed babies. The visit when the child attains the age of twelve months is also important, so that the general condition and development of the infant may be noted. In cases where there is reason to believe home conditions are not entirely satisfactory, or when the child has some defect, visits are paid more frequently.

After the first year, visits are paid twice yearly in the majority of cases, until the child attains the age of five, unless special conditions call for more frequent home visiting.

Statistics relating to the work of the Health Visitors are given in the following pages, but their real value cannot be shown by figures. Their influence upon the upbringing of infants from birth to the age of five years is incalculable if the mothers are of the type that will listen and profit by advice. Fortunately the number of intelligent mothers is growing every year but there are still many who are not willing to learn.

The first essential of good health visiting is to reach these indifferent or difficult cases and to carry out individual education work, having regard to all the circumstances of the home. The need of this work can be easily understood.

An ideal Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme would include such institutions as Infants' Hospitals, Convalescent Homes for mothers and babies, Maternity Hospitals and Day Nurseries, but the absence of such Institutions in this County can in some measure be compensated by a sufficiency of well trained Health Visitors who can impart their knowledge of modern infant rearing to the mothers at the homes.

1.—VISITS PAID.—During the year 45,595 visits were paid to the homes as follows :

New Cases		Re-visits under	Re-visits	Total Visits.
Babies seen	Fruitless Visits	1 year of age	1 to 5 years	
6056	940	15,544	23,055	45,595

The figures for the previous years are given for the purpose of comparison:—

1930.—First visits, 6,731; Fruitless visits, 1,133; Re-visits under one year, 15,372; Re-visits 1-5 years, 22,909; Total, 46,145.

1929.—First visits, 6,762; Fruitless visits, 1,122; Re-visits under one year, 15,930; Re-visits 1-5 years, 23,364; Total, 47,178.

1928.—First visits, 6,481; Fruitless visits, 1,047; Re-visits under one year, 10,881; Re-visits 1-5 years, 18,066; Total, 36,475.

1927.—First visits, 6,031; Fruitless visits, 775; Re-visits under one year, 14,246; Re-visits 1-5 years, 21,496; Total, 42,548.

1926.—First visits, 7,467; Fruitless visits, 416; Re-visits under one year, 22,366; Re-visits 1-5 years, 27,751; Total, 58,000.

1925.—First visits, 7,872; Fruitless visits, 590; Re-visits under one year, 22,541; Re-visits 1-5 years, 30,641; Total 61,644.

1924.—First visits, 8,577; Re-visits under one year, 24,319; Re-visits 1-5 years, 31,261; Total, 64,157.

1923.—First visits, 9,896; Re-visits under one year, 24,529; Re-visits 1-5 years, 33,038; Total, 67,463.

1922.—First visits, 9,100; Re-visits under one year, 25,350; Re-visits 1-5 years, 25,804; Total, 60,254.

1921.—First visits, 10,591; Re-visits under one year, 33,024; Re-visits 1-5 years, 21,843; Total, 65,458.

The reduction in the number of visits paid in recent years as compared with the years 1921 to 1926 is of course due to the large reduction in the number of births.

II.—METHODS OF FEEDING OF INFANTS.—Of the new cases visited it was found that 4,931 children were being brought up entirely on the breast (81.42 per cent.) whilst 838 were being bottle fed (13.83 per cent.), and 230 were both breast and bottle fed (3.79 per cent.). It was discovered on subsequent visits that in 488 instances (8.05 per cent.) children breast-fed had been put on the bottle after the first visit of the Health Visitor, and before the usual time of weaning. The above percentages are of the total new cases seen. In 57 cases the child only survived birth by a few hours (.94 per cent.).

The figures for the previous years in respect of all cases visited are:—

	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922
	per	per	per	per	per	per	per	per	per
	cent.	cent.	cent.	cent.	cent.	cent.	cent.	cent.	cent.
Breast-fed	82.2	81.7	82.5	84.7	86.2	86.2	82.3	81.8	79.6
Bottle fed	13.5	13.5	12.8	10.26	9.8	9.6	10.1	10.0	11.5
Both breast & bottle fed	3.3	3.9	3.6	3.9	3.03	3.1	2.5	2.6	3.25
Changed from breast to bottle feeding within the first nine months	6.06	7.4	6.3	6.8	7.3	10.2	9.1	7.6	12.0

The percentage of breast-fed babies in this table is much higher than that given by the Medical Officers in the section of this report dealing with the work of the Centres, and it must be pointed out that the Health Visitors' figures deal with the feeding at the time of their first visits, *i.e.*, about 10 days after birth, and there is evidently a considerable diminution in breast-feeding during the next few months. Many mothers take their babies to the Centre for the first time owing to their inability to continue breast-feeding.

The Health Visitors' figures show there is a decrease of .85 per cent. in the number of babies breast-fed, as compared with the previous year (1930).

A healthy happy mother means a healthy happy baby. Breast-feeding generally ensures both. A defective supply of mother's milk is usually due to some minor ailment which can easily be corrected. If a mother finds difficulty in breast-feeding her infant, she is advised by the Health Visitor to attend the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, where steps will be taken to ascertain the cause of the deficiency and to show her how to promote the flow. The method is simple and attendance at the Welfare Centre has saved many babies from the curse of early bottle feeding and has been the means of placing them upon their natural diet, with inestimable gain to their well being.

A report recently prepared upon the nutrition of the school children of the Administrative County of Monmouth discloses that the children of this County are not so tall, nor so heavy as the children of the Rhondda Valley area, in which the industrial conditions approximate to the major part of Monmouthshire. A most important step in the improvement of physique of the race is to persuade a greater proportion of mothers to rear their children in the normal manner.

III.—SANITARY DEFECTS AT THE HOMES.—In accordance with the arrangements made at the initiation of the scheme, visits were paid by the Health Visitors to the Local Medical Officers for consultation purposes, and reports were made to the District Medical Officers of Health upon Sanitary defects at the homes.

The congregation of human beings in the mining townships has led to overcrowding, with its consequent problems of sanitation and public health. Bad housing and overcrowding produces disease and contagion and deprives the child of a fair chance in life.

Overcrowding is unfortunately prevalent in all parts of the County, notwithstanding the efforts of some District Councils to provide houses for the working classes, and it is discouraging to find that the mothers living in those areas find it impossible to put into practice all the precepts taught at the Welfare Centres. In how many homes is it possible to provide a separate bed for the baby, preserve regularity of feeding, obtain clean storage facilities for milk, to name only a few of the teachings of child welfare? Good housing is the first essential of a Welfare Scheme, and it is the section in which the least is being done. Rents are also too high in proportion to income in the mining areas.

IV.—ANTE-NATAL.—The number of visits paid to expectant mothers was 247 to new cases, and 312 re-visits, a total of 559 visits. This is smaller than last year's figure, but the increasing attendances of expectant mothers at the Ante-natal Clinics mean that fewer visits to homes will be required.

V.—PUERPERAL FEVER.—During the year 1931, notifications of 8 cases of puerperal fever were received under the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, from the District Medical Officers of Health. The 8 notifica-

tions were received from the following urban districts—Abertillery, Ebbw Vale, Monmouth, Mynyddislwyn, Panteg, Pontypool and Tredegar, and Abergavenny Rural District. Nine deaths were registered.

The attack rate per 1,000 births in 1931 was 1.3 The attack rate per 1,000 of population equalled .020 and the death rate per 1,000 of population was .025. The death rate per 1,000 births was 1.11.

The following comparative table is submitted:—

Year	No. of Notifications to Local M.O.H.	No. of Notifications received at Central Office.	No. of Deaths Registered	Death rate per 1,000 of population for County	Death rate per 1,000 births.
1931	8	8	9	.025	1.40
1930	13	13	14	.038	2.2
1929	12	12	21	.058	3.2
1928	14	14	15	.04	2.2
1927	10	10	8	.02	1.2
1926	19	19	7	.019	.9
1925	22	22	8	.021	.9
1924	15	15	10	.027	1.19
1923	19	21	9	.02	1.0
1922	11	11	14	.03	1.5
1921	17	18	13	.03	1.2
1920	24	30	20	.05	1.89
1919	19	13	11	.029	1.3
1918	6	6	3	.009	.3
1917	4	4	0	Nil.	Nil
1916	13	14	8	.025	.9

The eight cases of puerperal fever investigated by the County Midwives' Inspectress showed that all cases were attended by registered midwives.

Details of the cases are as follows—Number of women attended at confinement by midwife alone, 2; by medical practitioner and midwife, 6. In one case attended by the midwife, the medical attendant was called in on the day of delivery, and in the other case the doctor was summoned on the third day.

Every precaution possible is taken to prevent the spread of infection. A visit of inspection is made immediately on receipt of the notification, and the midwife is prohibited from attending other cases until she has left the infected case and has allowed 24 hours to elapse for thorough disinfection of herself, her instruments and her clothing. Compensation is paid to the midwife for any cases which she may lose through this suspension.

Death resulted in eight of the cases which were notified under the Regulations and followed up by the County Staff.

On the 1st October, 1926, puerperal pyrexia became a notifiable disease in addition to puerperal fever. Puerperal pyrexia is defined as any febrile condition (apart from puerperal fever) occurring in a woman within 21 days after childbirth in which a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahr. or more has been sustained during a period of 24 hours.

Twenty cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified in 1931 and all were followed up by the Inspectress of Midwives. Nineteen cases cleared up satisfactorily, and one subsequently proved to be puerpural septicæmia.

A scheme for the provision of facilities for diagnosis and treatment of cases is in operation. Under the scheme the services of Dr. G. I. Strachan, M.D., F.R.C.S., of Cardiff, have been retained as consultant obstetrician, and his services have been requisitioned frequently by the medical practitioner in attendance upon the case. Cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to an Infectious Diseases Hospital, and any necessary bacteriological examination is made by Dr. H. W. Catto, County Bacteriologist, at the County Laboratory, Newport.

VI.—INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.—Six cases of this disease were discovered during visits to homes, and eight re-visits paid, as against 4 and 11 re-visits in the year 1930.

Thirty-five deaths were registered from this disease in children under two years of age, giving a death rate of 5.69 per 1,000 births, as compared with 5.67 for the year 1930.

All cases of which the Health Visitor has knowledge are visited, but it is obvious that very many cases do not come to her notice. *This disease is not notifiable.*

During the years preceding the introduction of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, the death rate averaged 11 per 1,000 births. The average rate for the past fourteen years, which includes one very hot summer, when the rate was 17.2, has been 7 per 1,000 births. *It will be observed that the rate for 1931 is considerably below that average.*

The infective type of the disease is essentially one of the summer months and it varies in intensity according to the type of summer, many more cases occurring in really warm weather. During these months, the mothers attending the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are warned of the measures necessary to prevent the disease, and printed instructions to mothers in regard to these diseases are distributed by the Health Visitors at homes when cases are discovered.

VII.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Nineteen cases were notified under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, as compared with 34 cases in the year 1930, and 27 in 1929. This notification figure is the lowest recorded since the Regulations came into force. These cases, together with other cases of eye trouble reported by the midwives, making a total of 77 cases, were followed up by the Health Visitors, who paid 283 visits to them. In four cases there was unsatisfactory conduct on the part of the midwife, and warning letters were sent by the County Medical Officer.

Since the beginning of January, 1921, the Midwives practising within the Administrative County have been supplied with bottles of Collosol Argentum, with which they are instructed to treat the eyes of all children at birth. The supply is renewed upon application to the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. There is no doubt that these

precautionary measures have succeeded in greatly reducing the incidence of blindness due to gonococcal infection, for rarely in recent years is there blindness from this cause.

There was one case of blindness in the County during 1931, but the child died from convulsions.

The County Health Visitors are assiduous in their following up of affected cases. Medical treatment is immediately urged for the slightest case, and frequent visits are paid to see that the mothers are properly attending to the eyes of the infants. The Venereal Diseases Inquiry Officer also follows up cases suspected of gonococcal infection, with a view to attendance at the Clinic.

The Health Visitors have reported upon 77 cases as follows:—

NUMBER OF CASES VISITED.

					Acute	Slight	Total.
Brought forward from last year	...	...	...	...	—	5	5
New cases—							
Both eyes	...	...	...	...	10	45	55
One eye only	...	...	...	...	3	14	17
					—	—	—
					13	64	77
					—	—	—
Number of cases which attended hospital							
As out-patients	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
As in-patients	...	...	..	...	1	—	1
Number of cases in which there was neglect on the part of the midwife				...	1	3	4

RESULTS:

Completely cured	...	...	...	...	9	59	68
Blindness (subsequently died)	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
To see Eye Specialist	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Cases still being followed up at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	2	5	7
					—	—	—
					13	64	77
					—	—	—

Three of the cases were referred to the Venereal Diseases Clinic.

VIII.—STILLBIRTHS.—The number of stillbirths registered was 356, which works out at 5.79 per 100 live births, a decrease of .20 upon the figure for 1930, which was 5.99. The rate continues to be abnormally high, and it compares very unfavourably with the English Counties, the highest of which in 1930 had a rate of 4.67, but there were five Welsh Counties with a higher rate than that of Monmouthshire. The Glamorgan-shire rate equalled Monmouthshire's. The average for England and Wales for that year was 4.1.

Dr. Mary Scott, Assistant Medical Officer, during the year 1928 furnished the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee with a special report upon stillbirth, its incidence, causation and prevalence, with special reference to the Administrative County of Monmouth, in which she dealt exhaustively with the subject. Her conclusion was that the measures suggested for the prevention of maternal mortality applied equally to the prevention of stillbirth, or, as she phrased it: "that action taken to prevent stillbirth would undoubtedly lead to prevention of maternal mortality."

IX.—UNREGISTERED WOMEN ACTING AS MIDWIVES.—The number of confinements attended by unregistered women without a doctor was 1, as compared with 1 in 1930 and 3 in 1929. This was a rural case, taken in an emergency.

C.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The area of the Administrative County in acres is 345,048. Other related statistics are given in the accompanying table.

The District Medical Officers' figures of the ages at death of children under one year of age, show that during the year 160 infants died within one week of birth, and 231 died within the first month of birth, whilst 434 died within the first twelve months, which, together with the figure of 356 stillbirths, make a total of 790 lives lost to the community.

The infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births is 71.9, as compared with 64.9 for 1930, which was the lowest ever recorded for the County. In 1929 it was 67.7; in 1928, 72.29; in 1927, 87.3; in 1926, 66.1; in 1925, 83.8; in 1924, 75.6; and in 1923, 73.0.

There were 6,146 births registered during the year, a decrease of 196 when compared with the number for 1930, and the birth rate is 17.6 per 1,000 of population, compared with 17.6 in 1930. In the year 1929 it was 17.8; in 1928, 18.3; in 1927, 17.5; in 1926, 20.3; in 1925, 21.5; in 1924, 22.3; in 1923, 23.5; in 1922, 23.8; in 1921, 28.3; in 1920, 29.2; and in 1919, 22.9.

The number of births of illegitimate children was 245, which gives a ratio to that of legitimate births as 41.5 to 958.5. Last year the number was 218, equal to 35.55 per 1,000 legitimate births, and for the year 1929 the figure was 37.16.

The number of deaths of illegitimate children under one year of age was 24, or 3.9 per 1,000 of all births, and 97.9 per 1,000 of illegitimate births. Last year the number of deaths was 19, or 2.9 per 1,000 of all births, and 87.1 per 1,000 of illegitimate births.

C.—VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1931

DISTRICT	Esti- mated Popula- tion	BIRTHS								DEATHS				INFANTILE MORTALITY.														
		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Grand Total	Rate per 1000 of popula- tion	Male	Female	Total	Rate per1000 of popula- tion	Total Deaths under One Year				Ages at Death of Children under One Year.										
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female							Legiti- mate	Illegiti- mate	Total	Rate per 1000 births	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1month	1— 3 Months	3—6 Months	6— 9 Months	9 -12 Months	Total under 1 year	
URBAN—	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
ABERCARN ...	20680	183	172	11	5	194	177	371	17.9	148	120	268	12.9	21	2	23	61.9	7	3	1	...	11	5	4	3	...	23	
ABERGAVENNY ...	8490	55	68	7	7	62	75	137	16.1	65	54	119	14.0	4	...	4	29.2	3	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	4
ABERSYCHAN ...	25820	211	215	14	8	225	223	448	17.3	157	133	290	11.1	29	2	31	69.2	10	3	1	2	16	7	3	5	...	31	
ABERTILLERY ...	31950	289	282	3	14	292	296	588	18.4	186	160	346	10.8	39	2	41	69.7	16	5	...	2	23	9	1	4	4	41	
BEDWAS & MACHEN ...	9255	79	103	2	2	81	105	186	20.0	51	47	98	10.5	11	1	12	64.5	5	1	...	...	6	2	1	1	2	12
BEDWELLY ...	30370	348	319	20	13	368	332	700	23.0	195	159	354	11.6	56	2	58	82.8	14	5	1	2	22	7	9	2	13	53	
BLAENAVON ...	11170	82	82	...	2	82	84	166	13.9	80	73	153	13.6	15	...	15	90.3	7	2	...	1	10	2	...	...	2	14
CAERLEON ...	2446	12	7	...	...	12	7	19	7.7	13	19	32	13.0	3	...	3	157.9	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
CHEPSTOW ...	4244	30	28	6	1	36	29	65	15.3	41	22	63	14.8	1	1	2	30.7	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
EBBW VALE ...	31970	273	246	9	6	282	252	534	16.7	209	173	382	11.9	48	1	49	91.7	16	1	1	4	22	7	3	6	10	48	
LLANFRECHFA UPPER ...	4512	39	35	...	2	39	37	76	16.7	32	32	64	14.1	8	...	8	105.2	4	...	...	...	4	2	...	1	...	7
LLANTARNAM ...	7324	59	68	4	...	63	68	131	17.8	39	34	73	9.9	9	...	9	68.7	4	...	...	...	4	1	2	1	...	8
MONMOUTH ...	4798	39	31	4	2	43	33	76	15.8	39	37	76	15.9	4	2	6	78.9	1	1	...	...	2	...	2	1	1	6
MYNYDDISLWYN ...	16320	129	140	8	7	137	147	284	17.4	93	74	167	10.2	19	1	20	70.4	6	4	...	1	11	4	2	1	1	19	
NANTYGLO & BLAINA ...	13240	132	113	2	2	134	115	249	18.8	86	84	170	12.8	16	...	16	64.2	3	2	...	1	6	5	1	3	1	16	
PANTEG ...	11580	97	57	3	3	100	60	160	13.7	78	67	145	12.5	11	1	12	75.0	6	1	...	...	7	1	1	1	2	12
PONTYPOOL ...	6823	66	61	2	2	68	63	131	19.2	43	35	78	11.4	8	...	8	61.0	3	3	1	...	7	...	1	...	...	8
RHYMNEY ...	10610	111	89	4	5	115	94	209	19.7	78	71	149	14.0	20	1	21	100.4	10	1	2	...	13	2	3	2	3	23	
RISCA ...	16730	141	120	3	6	144	126	270	16.1	93	77	170	10.1	15	1	16	59.2	7	1	1	...	9	1	2	2	1	15	
TREDEGAR ...	23370	239	212	10	12	249	224	473	20.2	139	106	275	11.7	40	5	45	95.1	20	2	...	3	25	5	5	6	4	45	
USK ...	1298	7	6	...	1	7	7	14	11.5	18	16	34	26.1	3	...	3	214.2	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
RURAL—																												
ABERGAVENNY ..	8733	50	51	2	3	52	54	106	12.1	66	44	110	12.6	5	...	5	47.1	3	1	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
CHEPSTOW ...	8643	62	67	1	3	63	70	133	15.3	35	57	92	10.6	6	...	6	45.1	2	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	1	6
MAGOR ...	6684	47	54	3	1	50	55	105	15.7	56	22	78	11.7	6	...	6	57.1	2	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	6
MONMOUTH ...	6393	36	48	3	2	39	50	89	13.9	49	58	107	16.7	8	1	9	101.1	...	2	3	...	5	1	2	...	1	9	
PONTYPOOL ...	5097	28	37	3	3	31	40	71	13.9	48	33	81	15.8	3	...	3	42.2	2	1	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	4
ST. MELLONS ...	19020	193	153	5	4	198	157	355	18.6	113	88	201	10.5	10	1	11	30.9	4	2	...	1	7	2	...	2	1	12	
Grand Totals, 1931 ...	347570	3037	2864	129	116	3166	2980	6146	17.6	2280	1895	4175	12.01	418	24	442	71.9	160	42	12	17	231	67	46	43	47	434	
Totals for year 1930	359640	3165	2959	120	98	3285	3057	6342	17.6	2031	1657	3688	10.2	393	19	412	64.9	143	27	21	15	206	65	40	51	42	402	

N.B.—The figures in the columns marked with an asterisk were supplied by the Registrar-General, and the remainder by the District Medical Officers.

The District Infantile Mortality Rates, arranged in order of highest rate, are as follows:—

Districts.	Present Year	(1930)	Districts.	Present Year	(1930)
URBAN—			URBAN—		
Usk	214.2	(95.2)	Nantyglo and Blaina..	64.2	(56.7)
Caerleon	157.9	(62.5)	Abercarn	61.9	(68.9)
Llanfrechfa Upper...	105.2	(40.0)	Pontypool	61.0	(73.3)
Rhymney	100.4	(66.3)	Risca	59.2	(36.7)
Tredegar	95.1	(64.0)	Chepstow	30.7	(59.7)
Ebbw Vale	91.7	(80.4)	Abergavenny	29.2	(43.1)
Blaenavon	90.3	(67.0)			
Bedwellty	82.8	(78.5)	RURAL—		
Monmouth	78.9	(37.5)	Monmouth	101.1	(23.5)
Panteg	75.0	(86.0)	Magor	57.1	(48.0)
Mynyddislwyn	70.4	(97.1)	Abergavenny	47.1	(61.4)
Abertillery	69.7	(56.6)	Chepstow	45.1	(44.7)
Abersychan	69.2	(68.8)	Pontypool	42.2	(50.8)
Llantarnam	68.7	(60.8)	St. Mellons	30.9	(42.7)
Bedwas and Machen..	64.5	(67.7)			

The Vital Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1931, compiled by the Registrar-General, are as in the subjoined table. The Monmouthshire figures are given for the purpose of comparison.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population				Death Rate per 1,000 living		Deaths under one year per 1,000 births	
	Live Births	Still Births	Live Births	Still Births				
	1931	1931	1930	1930	1931	(1930)	1931	(1930)
ENGLAND & WALES ...	15.8	0.67	(16.3)	(0.69)	12.3	(11.4)	66.0	(60.0)
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	16.0	0.67	(16.6)	(0.71)	12.3	(11.5)	71.0	(64.0)
159 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted populations, 20,000—50,000)	15.6	0.73	(16.2)	(0.69)	11.3	(10.5)	62.0	(55.0)
London	15.0	0.50	(15.7)	(0.56)	12.4	(11.4)	65.0	(59.0)
MONMOUTHSHIRE ...	17.6	1.02	(17.6)	(1.05)	12.01	(10.2)	71.9	(64.9)

In all cases the estimated populations as supplied by the Registrar-General have been used for the purposes of this table.

D.—DEDUCTIONS FROM THE COUNTY VITAL STATISTICS.

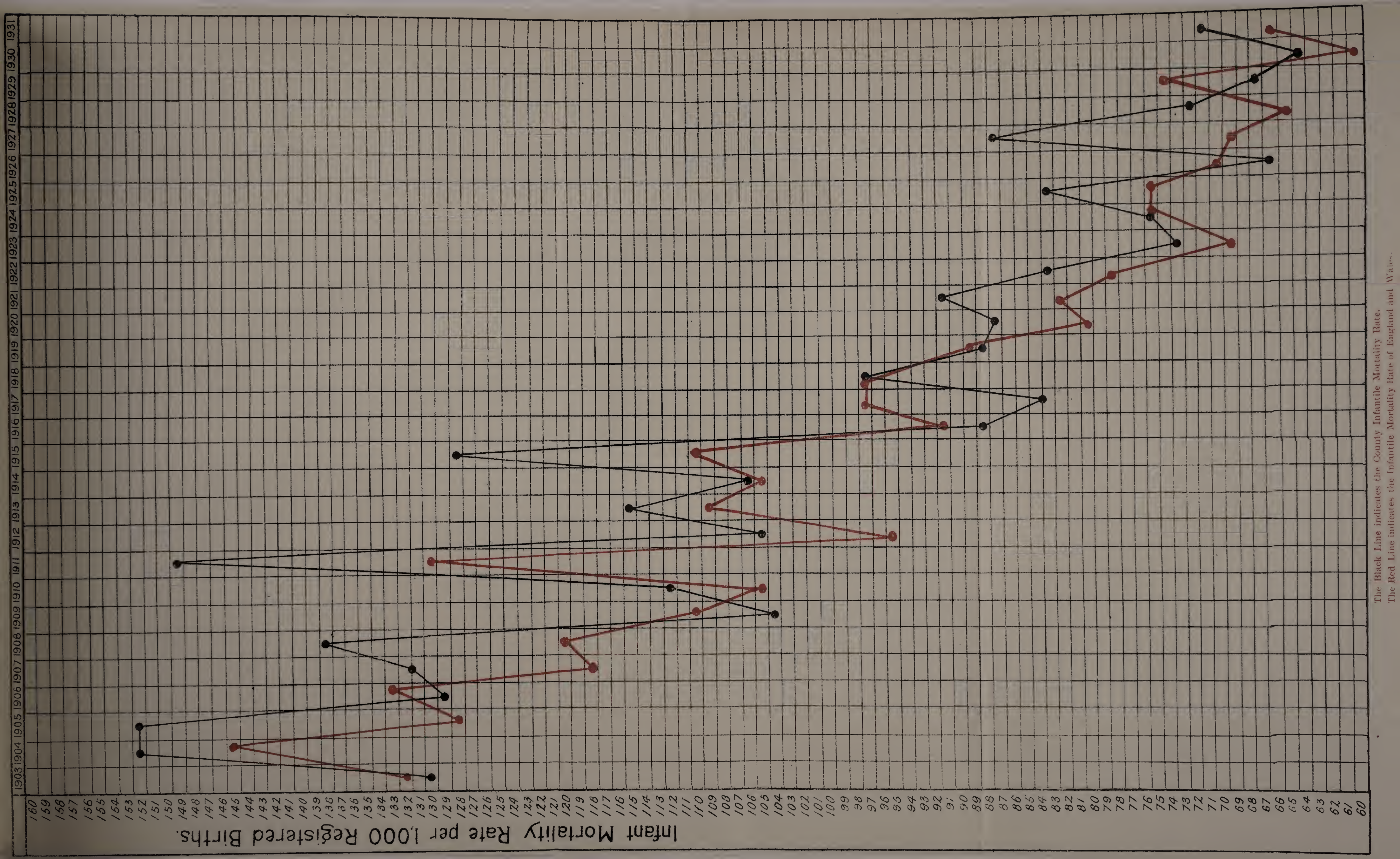
It would appear that the birth rate this year (17.6 per cent.) is the same as last year, but it must be pointed out that last year's figure was calculated upon the estimated population of 359,640. Since then the population as shown at the Census of 1931 (347,570) has been taken as the basis of the estimated population for that year. This is considerably lower than the estimate for 1930, and it undoubtedly shows that the estimate for 1930 was much too high. The rate of 17.6 for 1930 was, therefore, a false figure, and had this year's rate been calculated upon that figure, it would have shown a reduction. There were 196 fewer births during the year 1931 as compared with 1930.

The County Death Rate of 12.01 per 1,000 of population is above the rate for 1930 which was 10.2. It is, however, still below that for England and Wales (12.3). The remarks concerning population in the paragraph relating to the birth rate also apply to the death rate, inasmuch as the rate for 1930 would have been higher if the reduced estimated population figure had been taken.

The County Infantile Mortality Rate for the year (71.9) shows an increase upon the rate for the previous year (64.9) which was the lowest on record for the County.

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES.	1931	(1930)	(1929)	(1928)
All causes	442	(412)	(435)	(478)
Small Pox	—	—	(1)	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
Measles	12	(1)	(4)	(8)
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	(15)	(28)	(17)
Influenza	4	(2)	(5)	(2)
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	—	—	—
Meningococcal meningitis	—	—	(3)	(1)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	—	(1)	(1)
Other Tubercular Diseases	3	(2)	(1)	(4)
Cancer (Malignant disease)	1	—	—	—
Syphilis	1	—	—	—
Bronchitis	36	(24)	(33)	(28)
Pneumonia (all forms)... ..	73	(51)	(62)	(85)
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	(2)	(4)	(3)
Diarrhoea	29	(34)	(29)	(28)
Digestive Diseases	7	—	—	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	—	(1)	—	—
Congenital Debility	213	(204)	(191)	(217)
Violence	6	(5)	(6)	(8)
Other Defined Diseases... ..	52	(71)	(67)	(75)
Causes ill-defined or unknown... ..	—	—	—	(1)



The large proportion of deaths during the first month of life is still very noticeable. Death at this period of life is due often to ill-health of the mother during pregnancy, and to difficulties during confinement.

E.—MATERNAL MORTALITY AND ANTE-NATAL CARE.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—The number of deaths registered during the year from accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition was 33, 9 from Puerperal Fever and 24 from other causes associated with childbirth. This is equal to a rate of 5.36 per 1,000 live births, which is the same as that of last year. It shows that the reduction in the mortality rate, which was apparent last year, is maintained, but the rate is still much higher than that of England and Wales, which for the year 1931, was 4.1 per 1,000 live births registered.

A summary of the Conclusions and Recommendations contained in the Interim Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Government to enquire into Maternal Mortality and Morbidity was given in last year's report, and it was made clear that two very necessary measures for obtaining a reduction in maternal mortality are :—

- 1.—The enlightenment of women as to the importance of ante-natal supervision, and
- 2.—The extension and improvement of the maternity services of Local Authorities.

The work in Monmouthshire is proceeding steadily on these lines, as far as the economic conditions permit. The final report of the Maternal Mortality Committee will very shortly be published, and further comment upon the subject can very well be deferred until that report is received.

ANTE-NATAL CARE.—There was a marked improvement in the attendances of expectant mothers at the Ante-natal Clinics during the year. The sixteen Clinics were visited by 1,383 women, who made 2,770 attendances, the average attendance per session being 13.9 as compared with 9.9 last year.

This is a tribute to the popularity of the Clinics and the good work which is being done, although it is certain that a proportion of the women attend chiefly for the purpose of obtaining the milk which is given to necessitous cases.

Several of the Centres are overcrowded, and the Medical Officers find it impossible in the time at their disposal to give to all the women the care and attention which are necessary.

Splendid support is being given by the midwives, many of whom attend with their patients at the Clinic. Records of all ante-natal work are kept at the Clinics, and are available at any time for the use of any professional attendant at the confinement.

The following are the Reports of the Medical Officers in charge of the Ante-natal Clinics :—

1.—Dr. MARY SCOTT, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

ABERGAVENNY.—This Centre is open for one half-day each month. As in the previous year this is the only Centre in which the attendance has been disappointing. There is certainly an improvement over last year's attendance, but the numbers attending hardly justify the continuance of an Ante-natal Clinic here.

The number of new patients was seventeen, re-visits were six, and the average attendance at each session was 2.3.

Four male babies and eight female babies were born before the end of the year. Two patients who attended were found to be not pregnant. Two patients were assisted with a free supply of milk in the later months of pregnancy, which equals about 11 per cent. of new patients attending.

ABERSYCHAN.—During the year 45 new patients attended this Centre; there were 56 re-visits, the average attendance being 9.18 per session.

This Clinic is open for one half-day once a month.

27 female children and 18 male children were born during the year. The births included one set of twins.

Two patients were found to be not pregnant.

Twelve patients received help in the form of fresh milk in the later months of pregnancy. This represents about 26 per cent. of total attending.

Three patients were referred to the Consulting Obstetrician and all were successfully confined in the Maternity Hospital.

BLAENAVON.—During the year 67 new patients attended this Centre; re-visits were 55, and the average attendance was 11.09. Of these, 48 mothers were confined during the year, 32 female and 16 male children being born.

Two patients were found to be not pregnant.

Milk was given free to 23 patients, which represents about 47 per cent. of the total number attending.

This Centre is open for one whole day monthly.

BLAINA.—During the year 125 new patients attended the Clinic. There were 199 re-visits, and the average attendance was 29.45. 71 male children were born, and 53 female. There were two sets of twins. Three patients were found to be not pregnant.

57 patients received milk during the late months of pregnancy. This represents about 46 per cent. of new patients attending.

One patient was referred to the Consultant. She was admitted to the Maternity Hospital, kept under observation and treated there and was later successfully confined at home.

This Centre is open for one whole day each month.

CHEPSTOW.—During the year 34 new patients attended, there were 43 re-visits, and an average attendance of 7.7.

Sixteen male children and 13 female children were born before the end of the year.

Two patients were found to be not pregnant.

Four patients received a supply of milk, which equals about 11 per cent. of new patients attending.

One patient was referred to the Consultant. She was admitted to the Maternity Hospital and was delivered there of a badly deformed still-born child. One patient, because of unsuitable house conditions, was delivered in the local hospital.

This Clinic is open for one half-day, Monthly.

EBBW VALE.—129 new patients attended this Centre. There were 139 re-visits making an average attendance of 22.33 per session, just double that of the previous year.

73 male children and 59 female children were born before the end of the year. Two patients were found to be not pregnant.

One set of twins was born.

One patient was referred to the Tredegar Maternity Home and was confined there.

Two patients were referred to the Consultant and were confined successfully in the Maternity Hospital. Milk was given to 55 patients. This equals about 42 per cent. of the new patients attending.

This Centre is open for one half-day monthly.

The ladies of the local Committee have again attended regularly throughout the year, and have kindly provided tea for the mothers.

These ladies have also helped us by arranging for patients to be examined in the order in which they arrived at the Centre. The number attending for examination was large for the time at our disposal, and it would have been difficult for the work of the Clinic to have run smoothly without the help of these ladies.

MONMOUTH.—23 new patients attended the Centre during the year. There were 27 re-visits and the average attendance was 5.0 per session. 12 female children were born before the end of the year and 11 male children.

One set of twins was born.

One mother was referred to the Maternity Home at Tredegar because of unsuitable home conditions, and was delivered there successfully.

One patient was referred to the Consultant but he did not consider it was necessary for her to be admitted to the Hospital and she was safely delivered at home. Another patient was referred to the Consultant because of contracted pelvis. She had Cæsarean section operation successfully performed in the Maternity Hospital.

Milk was given to six patients in the late stages of pregnancy. This represents about 26 per cent. of new patients attending.

This Centre is open for one half-day monthly.

NEW TREDEGAR.—During the year 86 new patients attended. There were 97 re-visits and the average attendance at each session was 15.25.

38 male children were born and 37 female children. Three patients were found to be not pregnant.

One set of twins was born.

38 patients were given a supply of fresh milk. This represents about 50 per cent. of new patients attending.

This Centre is open for one day monthly.

PENGAM.—During the year 82 new patients attended. There were 97 re-visits and the average attendance was 14.5.

39 male and 31 female children were born before the end of the year.

A supply of fresh milk was given to 30 mothers representing a percentage of 36 of the new patients attending.

There were three pregnancies resulting in twin births during the year.

Three patients were found to be not pregnant. One patient was advised to submit to examination by Consultant because abnormality was suspected. She refused to do this and was later delivered of a still-born deformed child.

One patient was admitted to the Maternity Hospital because of malpresentation. She was successfully delivered of a living child.

The Centre is open for one day once a month.

PONTYPOOL.—During the year 94 new patients attended the Clinic. There were 111 re-visits and the average attendance was 17.08.

41 male children and 37 female children were born before the end of the year.

There were two sets of twins.

Milk was given to 28 patients in the later months of pregnancy which equals about 35 per cent. of the new patients attending.

One patient because of severe pain was referred to the Consultant. He did not advise admission to Hospital and she was confined successfully at home. Another patient was referred to the Consultant because of contracted pelvis. Induction of labour was performed a few days before full time and she was delivered successfully of a living child. This patient had been admitted to the Maternity Hospital from this Clinic in the previous year, and had induction of labour before birth of her first child.

This Centre is open for one half-day monthly.

RHYMNEY.—45 new patients attended during the year. There were 49 re-visits and the average attendance was 8.72.

By the end of the year 28 male and 23 female children had been born of mothers attending the Clinic. One set of twins was born.

Milk was given to 21 patients which represents about 46 per cent. of new patients attending.

Two patients, because of unsuitable home conditions were confined in the Tredegar Maternity Home.

One patient because of death of the child in the early months of pregnancy was referred to the Consultant. She was admitted to hospital and was there operated on successfully.

One patient was found to be not pregnant. This Centre is open for one half-day monthly.

TREDEGAR.—This Centre had 68 new patients during the year. 70 re-visits were paid, and the average attendance was 12.24 per session.

36 male and 28 female children were born. There were two sets of twins. One mother who had twins had attended the Clinic during the previous pregnancy. This pregnancy also terminated in twin birth thirteen months before the birth of her second set of twins.

44 patients received a supply of milk in the later stages of pregnancy. This represents the percentage of about 64 in the number of new patients attending.

This Centre is open for one half-day monthly.

GENERAL.

It will be noticed that the number of mothers who were confined before the end of the year is high in proportion to the number of new patients attending. This is due to the fact that a certain number of the patients who had attended in 1930 were not confined till 1931, and were therefore included in the number of confinements of the latter year.

It was found, as in the previous years of Ante-natal work, that the majority of pregnancies fortunately run a normal course without serious complications. But even in these more or less normal pregnancies, advice given at the Centres on minor ailments and discomfort often adds greatly to the general comfort of the patient.

When a new patient attends the Centre, a record of her previous pregnancies and labours and of any outstanding features in her past general health is taken, an examination of her general physical condition is then made, her urine is examined for signs of albuminuria, one of the common and dangerous diseases of pregnancy; other special points relating to the pregnancy are investigated, and pelvic measurements are taken.

The patient is advised to attend the Centre monthly till her confinement and is asked particularly to attend for special examination about the 36th week.

In difficult cases, and in cases where further advice is deemed necessary, the patients are referred to Dr. Strachan, the Consulting Obstetrician who decides which is the best course of procedure to adopt.

We have still three difficulties in connection with the Ante-natal work namely, firstly, of finding time in certain of the Centres to examine all the patients who attend; secondly, in persuading all patients to attend for examination about the 36th week; and thirdly, of getting the mothers suffering from albuminuria to keep on special diet.

The second and third of these difficulties are perhaps not quite so insurmountable as in the previous year. Many mothers now realise that pregnancy is a normal condition and that, unless there are complications, there is no reason why they should not lead a normal life, take exercises, and be able to attend for examination to within a few days of their confinements. The fact that neglected albuminuria is the cause of many still births and illness in the mothers is also becoming better known and lately patients have been more easily persuaded to cut certain foods out of their diets.

During the year there has been a considerable increase in the Dental treatment received by the expectant mothers. It is common knowledge that pregnant women are very prone to dental caries and toothache, and it has been a great relief to many attending these Centres to have the offending teeth extracted. Here again is an old prejudice which these Centres are helping to break down—that it is harmful for expectant women to have teeth extracted.

Fresh milk is given in varying quantities in the different districts, the amounts varying from 11 per cent. of the number of new patients in Abergavenny and Chepstow to as much as 64 per cent., in Tredegar (this last is the only area where the percentage is over 50 per cent.)

The patients attending the Centre we might divide into three classes, those who come solely for advice, those who come for advice but who may require and who apply for milk,

and that smaller class who attend simply for free milk, and who in a few cases, resent examination being made or advice being given.

Many family doctors and midwives were written to during the year and the doctor was always informed in writing when a patient was being sent to the County Consultant.

The midwives in most districts still continue to be of great assistance in bringing and sending patients to the Centres and we have had many visits from midwives during the year.

2.—Dr. MARY GORDON, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

NEWPORT CLINIC.—The work of this Clinic held one day per month, continued to grow during 1931, 141 new cases attended, 236 visits were paid and the average attendance per session was 23.6 as compared with 97 new cases, 164 visits and an average attendance of 14.9 in 1930.

Of the 141 new cases, 52 were primipara, 44 new cases were referred to the clinic by midwives, 4 were sent by their own doctors and the others, with the exception of 10 who came of their own accord, were sent from the County Infant Welfare Centres.

The number of cases sent by midwives during the year shows an increase over 1930—a satisfactory feature. One would still like to see more patients attend of their own accord.

On the whole the nutrition of the mothers was good. Those whose health was below par were helped with fresh milk, tonics and attention to dental sepsis.

3 cases were referred to the Consulting Obstetrician and had their confinements in hospital.

2 cases attended who were found not pregnant.

4 cases of albuminuria and 2 cases of organic heart disease attended.

3.—Dr. PHILOMENE R. WHITAKER, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

CRUMLIN.—The total attendances for the year were 227 as against 268 last year.

Of these 119 were new cases, 40 per cent. were primipara and 60 per cent. multipara—the number of primipara has increased by 14 per cent. This is very encouraging because it indicates that the expectant mother is seeking advice upon her condition, and wishes to be under supervision during her pregnancy.

Some 20 per cent. of cases showed some abnormality in their pregnancies, contracted pelvis, albuminuria, breech presentation, etc.

3 cases of contracted pelvis were referred to the Consulting Obstetrician for examination.

ABERTILLERY.—This Clinic is held once a month and is always well attended. The number of cases seen was 349, the average attendance being 31.72 per session. There is an ever increasing number of expectant mothers who attend this Clinic in order, not so much for the examination and supervision, but to apply for the “free milk.” This is disheartening as the time taken up in examining endless numbers of early pregnancies prejudices the chances of those seeking advice later on in their pregnancies. Towards the end of a long clinic the examinations have to be often hurried or even deferred.

Of those attending 35 per cent. were primipara and 65 per cent. multipara.

Some 10 per cent. showed abnormal pregnancies. Six cases of contracted pelvis were found, and referred for further treatment.

OAKDALE.—This Clinic is held on alternate weeks and consists of an afternoon session only.

The progress of this Centre continues to be very satisfactory. During the year 123 new cases attended and the total number of attendances was 199 compared to 132 last year. This is very encouraging. 29 per cent. were primipara and 71 per cent. multipara. There is still some difficulty in convincing the patients of the necessity of having a routine examination of the urine. In cases of defaulters, these are referred to their respective midwives.

The post-natal cases at this Clinic attend well for advice and re-examination. During the year, 8 cases of contracted pelvis were found, some severe and some only slight. 3 patients consulted the doctor, on account of “fits,” and were treated by special diet, etc., about 10 per cent. showed some abnormal feature in their pregnancies, *i.e.*, Breech, hydramnios, etc. Dental treatment up to the 6th month was advised and in many cases patients went for treatment to the nearest Dental Clinic.

Clinic	Premises Used	Day and Time of Ante-natal Clinic	Date of Opening	Medical Officer in Charge	Health Visitor.	District served by the Clinic	No. of New Cases attend'd	Re-Visits	Total	Average Attendance at each Session
Abergavenny	... Boy Scouts' Rooms, Neville Street	4th Tuesday in month, 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.	1929 Nov., 26th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse G. L. Golding	Abergavenny Urban and Rural Areas	17	6	23	2.3
Abersychan	... Congregational Schoolroom	1st Wed. in month, 2 to 4 p.m.	Nov., 6th 1930	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse A. Roberts	Aberseychan, Varteg and Garndiffaith	45	56	101	9.18
Abertillery	... Tabernacle Schoolroom	2nd Tuesday in month, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	July, 19th 1930	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	Nurse M. Sainsbury	Abertillery, Six Bells, Aberbeeg & Llanhilleth	190	159	349	31.72
Blaenavon	... The Hospital	4th Friday in month, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	July, 29th 1929	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse C. M. Phillips	Blaenavon Urban District	67	55	122	11.09
Blaina	... Church Institute	2nd Tuesday in month 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 1.30 to 3 p.m.	Nov., 12th 1929	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse C. Davies	Nantyglo and Blaina	125	199	324	29.45
Chepstow	... Domestic Arts Centre, Bridge St. School	1st Friday in month, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.	Dec., 6th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse E. Wilmot	Chepstow Urban and Rural Areas	34	43	77	7.7
Crumlin	... The Clinic, 4 Havodyrynys Rd.	Alternate Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.	Nov., 1st	Dr. Philomene Whitaker	Nurse D. James	Llanhilleth, Crumlin, Havodyrynys, Newbridge, Abercarn and Cwmearn	119	108	227	10.8
Ebbw Vale	... James Street Wesleyan Chapel	3rd Tuesday in month, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Nov., 19th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse M. Redwood	Ebbw Vale, Beaufort, Victoria, Waunllwyd and Cwm	129	139	268	22.33
Monmouth	... Working Men's Institute, Monk St.	1st Friday in month, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Dec., 6th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse O. Colman	Monmouth Urban and Rural Areas	23	27	50	5.0
Newport	... School Clinic, Stanley Road, Gold Tops	2nd Friday in month, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 1.30 to 3.30 p.m.	Dec., 2nd	Dr. Mary Gordon	Nurse R. Davies	Machen, Rhiwderin, Rogerstone, Bassaleg, Ynysddu, Cwmfelinfach, Cross Keys, Risca, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran, Malpas, Caerleon, Caldicot, Magor Rural Area, Rumney and St. Mellons Rural Area	141	95	236	23.6
New Tredegar	... Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom	3rd Friday in month, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 1.30 to 3 p.m.	Nov., 15th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse F. Williams	New Tredegar, Cwmsyflog and Aberbargoed	86	97	183	15.25
Oakdale	... Women's Institute	Alternate Mondays, 2 to 4 p.m.	Oct., 28th	Dr. Philomene Whitaker	Nurse K. H. Jones	Oakdale, Blackwood and Pontllanfraith	123	76	199	8.3
Pengam	... The Clinic, Vine House	2nd Friday in month, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 1.30 to 3 p.m.	Dec., 3rd	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse M. B. James	Cefn Forest, Pengam, Maesycwmmmer, Bedwas and Trethomas	82	92	174	14.5
Pontypool	... Pontypool & District Hospital	4th Tuesday in month, 1.30 to 3.30 p.m.	Nov., 26th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse E. A. Morgan	Pontypool, Pontnewynydd, Pontymoile, Panteg, and Griffithstown.	94	111	205	17.08
Rhymney	... Domestic Arts Centre, Middle Rhymney School	1st Tuesday in month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.	Dec., 3rd	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse W. Jones	Rhymney and Abertysswg	45	49	94	8.72
Tredegar	... Maternity Home, Market Street	3rd Tuesday in month, 2 to 4 p.m.	Nov., 19th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse K. M. Walters	Tredegar, Sirhowy, Trevil, Bedwelty Pits, Troedrhigwair, Hollybush, Markham Village and Argoed	68	70	138	12.54
Totals ...							1388	1382	2770	13.9

F.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The following are the details of the Centres now open under the scheme approved by the County Council and the Local Government Board in 1916, the number being 42 :—

Location of Centre.	District Served.	Premises Utilised	Date of Opening	Day and Hours of Consultations	Medical Officer.
Aberbargoed ...	Aberbargoed	Domestic Arts Centre, Aberbargoed School	1917 Nov. 4th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. A. Roberts
Abercarn ...	Abercarn and Cwmearn	English Baptist Church Schoolroom, Abercarn	Oct. 18th	Thursday, 10 a.m.—12-30 p.m., 2-30—4-30 p.m.	Dr. E. M. Griffiths
Abergavenny ...	Abergavenny Urban and Rural Districts	Boy Scouts' Rooms, Abergavenny.	April 17th	Tuesday, 2-30—4-30 p.m.	Dr. G. W. Parry
Abersychan ...	Abersychan	Congregational Schoolroom, Abersychan.	1918 Oct. 29th	Wednesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R.J.S. Verity
Abertillery ...	Abertillery and Cwmtillery	Tabernacle Schoolroom Chapel Street, Abertillery	1917 June 8th	Friday, 10-45 a.m.—3 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Abertysswg ...	Abertysswg	Ainon Baptist Chapel, Abertysswg	1920 July 7th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Beaufort ...	Beaufort	Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Beaufort	1919 Sept. 3rd	Wednesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Blackwood ...	Blackwood, Pontllanfraith and Argoed	Parish Hall, Blackwood	1917 April 20th	Alternate Mondays 10-30 a.m.—12-30 p.m. and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
Blaenavon ...	Blaenavon	Workmen's Surgery, Blaenavon	June 6th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. J. Reynolds
Blaina ...	Blaina	Church Institute, Blaina	April 17th	Friday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. E. D. Owen
Caerleon ...	Caerleon and Christchurch	Ty Craig, High Street, Caerleon.	Nov. 21st	Alternate Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
Caldicot ...	Caldicot, Sudbrook, Portskewett & District	Wesleyan Chapel, Caldicot.	1920 June 1st	Tuesday, 1-30—3-30 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
Chepstow ...	Chepstow Urban and Rural Districts	Domestic Arts Centre, Bridge Street School, Chepstow	1917 March 27th	Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. L. Drapes
Crosskeys ...	Crosskeys, Wattsville and Pontywaun	Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Crosskeys	Nov 23rd	Friday, 2-4 p.m.	Dr. A. S. M. Dewar
Crumlin ...	Crumlin	4 Hafodyrynys Road, Crumlin.	1924 March 28th	Friday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
Cwm ...	Cwm, Victoria and Waunllwyd	Parish Hall, Cwm	1917 Nov 20th	Thursday, 10-30 a.m.—3 p.m.	Dr. W. Panes
Cwmbran ...	Llantarnam, Cwmbran, Llanfrechfa & Ponthir	Council Offices, Cwmbran	March 21st	Thursday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Ebbw Vale ...	Ebbw Vale	James Street Wesleyan Chapel, Ebbw Vale	March 13th	Tuesday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. F. M. Fonseca
Garndiffaith ...	Varteg, Victoria, Cwmavon & Garndiffaith	Calvinistic Methodist Schoolroom, Garndiffaith	Oct. 23rd	Tuesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R.J.S. Verity

Location of Centre.	District Served	Premises Utilised.	Date of Opening	Day and Hours of Consultations	Medical Office.
Llanhilleth	... Llanhilleth and Aberbeeg	Workmen's Institute, Llanhilleth	1917 Oct. 15th	Monday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Malpas	... Malpas	The Institute,	1930 Jan. 2nd	Alternate Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon	Dr. Mary Gordon
Monmouth	... Monmouth Urban and Rural Districts	Workingmen's Inst., Monk St., Monmouth	1917 June 15th	Friday, 2-30—4-30 p.m.	Dr. W. H. Williams
Nantyglo	... Nantyglo	English Wesleyan Church, Nantyglo	1924 July 14th	Mondays, 1 p.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Newbridge	... Newbridge and Pentwynmawr	Tabernacle Baptist Schoolroom, Newbridge	1917 March 20th	Monday, 10—12 noon, and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. R. Nash
Newport	... Maesglas, Gaer Park, St. Brides, Magor, etc.	School Clinic, Stanley Road, Newport	March 21st	Alternate Wednesdays 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
New Tredegar	... New Tredegar and Cwmsyflog	Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom, New Tredegar	March 29th	Monday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. A. Roberts
Oakdale	... Oakdale, Rhiw-syr-dafydd and Markham Village.	Women's Institute, Oakdale	1918 Oct. 25th	Alternate Mondays, 10.30—2.0 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
Panteg	... Panteg, Griffithstown and Pontrhydyrun	Baptist Chapel, Griffithstown.	1917 March 21st	Thursday, 10—12 noon	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Pengam	... Pengam, Fleur-de-lis and Maesycwmmwr	Vine House, High Street, Pengam	March 12th	Thursday, 10.30—12.30 and 1-30—3-30 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Pontnewynydd	... Pontnewynydd	Wesleyan Chapel, Pontnewynydd	April 19th	Thursday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R. J. S. Verity
Pontymoile	... Pontymoile, New Inn, and Pontypool Road	Mission Hall, Pontymoile	Oct. 17th	Tuesday, 10—12 noon,	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Pontypool	... Pontypool, Mamhilad, Glascoed, Goytre, Coedypaen, Llangibby	Tabernacle Schoolroom, Crane Street, Pontypool	May 9th	Wednesday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. E. D. Owen
Rhymney	... Rhymney and Rhymney Bridge.	Domestic Arts Centre, Middle Rhymney School	March 12th	Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. R. V. de A. Redwood
Risca	... Risca	Domestic Arts Centre, Danygraig School, Risca	March 23rd	Friday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. B. Owen
Rogerstone	... Rogerstone, Bassaleg, and Rhiwderin	Domestic Arts Centre, Rogerstone School	Nov. 12th	Alternate Fridays, 10—12 noon	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
Rumney	... St. Mellons, Peterstone and Rumney	Baptist Chapel, Rumney	Dec. 5th	Alternate Thursdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. E. D. Owen
Six Bells	... Six Bells & Aberbeeg	Methodist Chapel, High St., Six Bells	1920 Sept. 29th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Tredegar	... Tredegar, Sirhowy, Trevil, Troedrhiwg-wair, Bedwellty Pits, Hollybush	Wesleyan Chapel, Harcourt St., Tredegar	1917 Feb. 26th	Tuesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. E. T. H. Davies
Trethomas	... Trethomas, Bedwas, and Machen	Baptist Chapel, Trethomas	April 19th	Monday, 10.30—12.30 and 1-30—3-30 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Upper Pontnewydd	... Pontnewydd and Croesyceiliog.	Ashley House, Pontnewydd.	1919 June 16th	Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Usk	... Usk and Rural Area	Twyn Square, Usk.	Nov. 11th	Alternate Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
Ynysddu	... Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu	Domestic Arts Centre, Ynysddu School.	March 23rd 1917	Friday, 10—12 noon	Dr. M. Gordon

G.—DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT CENTRES.

CENTRE	MEDICAL OFFICER	No. of Infants on Regist'r at 31st Dec., 1931	INFANTS						NURSING MOTHERS			EXPECTANT MOTHERS				
			New Cases		Re-visits		Total		Average Attend- ance at each Session	Grand Total	New Cases	Re- Visits	Total	New Cases	Re- Visits	Total
			Under 1 Year	1-5 Years	Under 1 Year	1-5 Years	Under 1 Year	1-5 Years								
Aberbargoed	Dr. A. Roberts	387	147	13	1846	631	1993	644	53.8	2637	59	66	125	17	7	24
Abercarn	Dr. E. M. Griffith	311	162	2	2418	902	2580	904	74.1	3484	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abergavenny	Dr. G. W. Parry	290	106	27	884	558	990	585	32.8	1575	2	10	12	—	—	—
Abersychan	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	173	80	37	850	138	930	175	22.5	1105	26	21	47	1	—	1
Abertillery	Dr. T. B. Smith	688	265	56	2537	1450	2802	1506	89.7	4308	32	47	79	18	10	28
Abertysswg	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan	103	36	3	428	294	464	297	15.5	761	40	184	224	11	14	25
Beaufort	Dr. M. Scott	112	66	91	619	131	685	222	18.3	907	13	16	29	6	1	7
Blackwood	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	364	169	66	996	417	1165	483	71.6	1648	210	196	406	53	35	88
Blaenavon	Dr. J. Reynolds	350	155	26	1532	325	1687	351	41.6	2038	61	210	271	22	—	22
Blaina	Dr. E. D. Owen	320	145	14	1647	675	1792	689	51.7	2481	74	82	156	1	—	1
Caerleon	Dr. M. Gordon	107	34	7	394	265	428	272	28.0	700	17	57	74	4	2	6
Caldicot	Dr. M. Gordon	173	66	33	1191	979	1257	1012	47.2	2269	36	87	123	15	8	23
Chepstow	Dr. T. L. Drapes	236	96	30	826	1215	922	1245	45.1	2167	3	1	4	3	—	3
Crosskeys	Dr. A. M. Dewar	111	62	3	861	344	923	347	26.4	1270	25	50	75	9	4	13
Crumlin	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	221	112	5	935	328	1047	333	28.7	1380	38	139	177	119	108	227
Cwm	Dr. W. Panes	234	124	29	1304	216	1428	245	32.7	1673	39	53	92	1	—	1
Cwmbran	Dr. W. Austin	269	120	12	1247	356	1367	368	36.1	1735	10	36	46	9	2	11
Ebbw Vale	Dr. F. M. Fonseca	403	236	52	1901	370	2137	422	53.3	2559	41	80	121	—	—	—
Garndiffaith	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	176	68	19	813	226	881	245	23.4	1126	22	27	49	3	3	6
Llanhilleth	Dr. T. B. Smith	394	154	40	1568	735	1722	775	52.0	2497	9	54	63	17	37	54
Malpas	Dr. M. Gordon	126	38	21	466	431	504	452	38.2	956	29	45	74	1	—	1
Monmouth	Dr. W. H. Williams	212	99	47	729	695	828	742	32.7	1570	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nantyglo	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan	187	94	7	1160	299	1254	306	32.5	1560	83	125	208	7	1	8
Newbridge	Dr. W. R. Nash	306	146	7	2336	975	2482	982	72.1	3464	36	121	157	—	—	—
Newport	Dr. M. Gordon	205	102	34	575	366	677	400	43.0	1077	58	127	185	11	27	38
New Tredegar	Dr. A. Roberts	337	146	15	1679	526	1825	541	49.3	2366	123	129	252	13	4	17
Oakdale	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	173	64	30	615	315	679	345	42.6	1024	180	167	347	123	76	199
Panteg	Dr. W. Austin	177	69	8	1095	535	1164	543	35.5	1707	12	28	40	—	—	—
Pengam	Dr. M. Scott	406	175	68	1666	501	1841	569	50.2	2410	94	153	247	3	8	11
Pontnewydd	Dr. W. Austin	166	85	34	792	251	877	285	24.2	1162	6	34	40	4	4	8
Pontnewynydd	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	276	140	14	1364	328	1504	342	38.4	1846	34	27	61	2	—	2
Pontymoile	Dr. W. Austin	150	56	6	783	325	839	331	24.9	1170	8	10	18	—	—	—
Pontypool	Dr. W. Austin	312	143	13	1620	374	1763	387	44.8	2150	1	—	1	2	—	2
Rhymney	Dr. R. V. de A. Redwood	246	142	6	1033	130	1175	136	27.3	1311	41	117	158	6	—	6
Risca	Dr. W. B. Owen	340	150	17	2401	1542	2551	1559	85.6	4110	64	36	100	93	129	222
Rogerstone	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	155	57	7	518	288	575	295	33.4	870	111	171	282	13	9	22
Rumney	Dr. E. D. Owen	99	39	7	363	199	402	206	25.3	608	24	47	71	1	—	1
Six Bells	Dr. T. B. Smith	311	150	23	1519	712	1669	735	50.1	2404	11	29	40	12	26	38
Tredegar	Dr. E. T. H. Davies	511	308	19	2086	236	2394	255	55.2	2649	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trithomas	Dr. M. Scott	307	132	6	2207	509	2339	515	59.4	2854	65	104	169	62	68	130
Usk	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	67	30	13	111	152	141	165	12.7	306	16	45	61	8	9	17
Ynysddu	Dr. A. M. Dewar	195	84	18	944	355	1028	373	29.2	1401	54	118	172	23	17	40
Ttotal		10686	4852	985	50859	20599	55711	21584	42.22	77295	1807	3049	4856	693	609	1302

N.B.—Dr. W. Austin has now resigned her appointment.

H.—DETAILS OF MOTHERS' AILMENTS UPON WHICH ADVICE WAS GIVEN AT THE CENTRES.

Peculiar to Nursing Mothers—

Deficient Lactation	...	113
Sore Nipples	...	29
Mastitis	...	29
Abscess of Breast	...	10
Not Classified	...	31

Peculiar to Women—

Menorrhagia	...	63
Leucorrhœa	...	38
Amenorrhœa	...	20
Contracted Pelvis	...	14
Prolapse of Uterus	...	12
Abnormal Vaginal Discharge	...	11
Dysmenorrhœa	...	9
Pruritis Vulvæ	...	8
Ovarian Cyst	...	3
Metrorrhagia	...	2
Hyperemesis	...	2
Ante-Partum Hæmorrhage	...	1
Mal position of Uterus	...	1
Subinvolved Uterus	...	1
Cervicitis	...	1
Not Classified	...	5

Alimentary System—

Constipation	...	525
Dental Caries	...	238
Hæmorrhoids	...	35
Gastritis	...	30
Pyorrhœa	...	28
Diarrhœa	...	4
Worms	...	4
Stomatitis	...	8
Anal Fissure	...	1
Umbilical Discharge	...	1
Not Classified	...	30

Respiratory, Cardiac and Circulatory Systems—

Anæmia	...	218
Bronchitis & Bronchial Catarrh	...	61
Varicose Veins	...	21
Heart Disease	...	13
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	5
Asthma	...	5
Phlebitis	...	2
Thrombosis	...	2
Pleurisy	...	1
Not Classified	...	4

Skin—

Eczema	...	16
Urticaria	...	5
Boils	...	4
Scabies	...	4
Psoriasis	...	4
Impetigo	...	2
Alopecia	...	2
Septic Finger	...	2
Burns	...	1
Varicose Ulcer	...	1
Ulcer	...	1
Cyst	...	1
Prurigo	...	1
Abscess	...	1
Melanosis	...	1
Not Classified	...	13

Eye—

Conjunctivitis	...	13
Blepharitis	...	12
Styes	...	7
Defective Vision	...	1
Nystagmus	...	1
Not Classified	...	2

Ear, Nose and Throat—

Laryngitis	...	18
Tonsillitis	...	12
Enlarged Thyroid	...	10
Nasal Catarrh	...	3
Otorrhœa	...	2
Nasal Polypi	...	2
Enlarged Tonsils	...	1
Not Classified	...	3

Nervous System—

Neuralgia	...	17
Neuritis	...	2
Migraine	...	1
Facial Paralysis	...	1
Vertigo	...	1
Not Classified	...	2

Urinary System—			Venereal Diseases—		
Cystitis	...	20	Venereal Disease	...	10
Albuminuria	...	17	Suspected Venereal Disease		3
Nephritis	...	11	Miscellaneous—		
Incontinence of Urine	...	3	General Debility	...	319
Eclampsia	...	2	Headaches	...	4
Oedema	...	1	Backache	...	3
Pyelitis	...	1	Sprained Elbow	...	1
Retention of Urine	...	1	Miscellaneous	...	7
Not Classified	...	2			
Rheumatism	...	9			2228
Rheumatic Fever	...	3			
Lumbago	...	1			
Synovitis	...	1			

I.—DETAILS OF INFANTS' AILMENTS UPON WHICH ADVICE WAS GIVEN AT THE CENTRES.

Prematurity	...	...	34	Stomatitis	...	...	212
Birth Injuries and Malformations—				Dentition	...	...	198
Umbilical Protrusion and Hernia			424	Worms	...	...	181
Phimosis	...	...	241	Gastritis	...	...	172
Inguinal Hernia	...	...	67	Dental Caries	...	...	152
Tongue Tie	...	...	61	Flatulence	...	...	77
Hydrocele	...	...	17	Vomiting	...	...	53
Undescended Testicles	...	...	14	Jaundice	...	...	20
Hydrocephalus	...	...	10	Vaginitis	...	...	5
Hare Lip	...	...	5	Colitis	...	...	5
Cleft Palate	...	...	5	Rectal Prolapse	...	...	2
Spina Bifida	...	...	4	Dental Abscess	...	...	2
Syndactyly	...	...	3	Appendicitis	...	...	1
Hæmatoma (Sterno-mastoid)	...	...	2	Not Classified	...	...	63
Erb's Palsy	...	...	1	Respiratory, Cardiac and Circulatory			
Meningocele	...	...	1	Systems—			
Congenital Deformity of Ear	...	...	1	Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh			1820
Broken Arm	...	...	1	Common Colds	...	...	109
Torticollis	...	...	1	Anæmia	...	...	90
Hypospadias	...	...	1	Heart Disease	...	...	26
Kyphosis	...	...	1	Whooping Cough	...	...	21
Umbilical Hæmorrhage	...	...	1	Pneumonia	...	...	11
Imperforate Hymen	...	...	1	Tuberculosis of Lungs	...	...	8
Not Classified	...	...	7	Asthma	...	...	5
Alimentary System—				Epistaxis	...	...	1
Constipation	...	...	897	Pleurisy	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	477	Empyema	...	...	1
Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	248	Not Classified	...	...	34

Skin—				Deafness	...	...	4
Impetigo	...	...	301	Tonsillitis	...	...	4
Urticaria	...	...	206	Laryngeal Catarrh	...	...	2
Intertrigo	...	...	167	Quinsy	...	...	2
Eczema	...	...	160	Stammering	...	...	2
Umbilical Discharge	...	...	68				
Nævus	...	...	65	Bones and Joints—			
Sores	...	...	45	Orthopædic Conditions	...	...	133
Scabies	...	...	44				
Seborrhœa	...	...	34	Nervous System—			
Abscess	...	...	33	Convulsions	...	...	35
Burns and Scalds	...	...	32	Mentally Deficient	...	...	25
Boils	...	...	20	Mongolian Imbecile	...	...	4
Dermatitis	...	...	38	Petit Mal	...	...	2
Sore Buttocks	...	...	10	Cretenism	...	...	1
Ringworm	...	...	9	Meningitis	...	...	1
Mastitis	...	...	9				
Pemphigus Neonatorum	...	...	7	Lymphatic System—			
Erythema	...	...	3	Adenitis	...	...	110
Psoriasis	...	...	2	Ramula	...	...	1
Chilblains	...	...	2				
Septic Toe	...	...	1	Urinary System—			
Warts	...	...	1	Enuresis	...	...	39
Keratosis	...	...	1	Cystitis	...	...	7
Not Classified	...	...	7	Nephritis	...	...	6
				Inflamed Penis	...	...	1
				Hæmaturia	...	...	1
Eye—							
Blepharitis	...	...	138	Deficiency Diseases—			
Conjunctivitis	...	...	133	Rickets	...	...	193
Squint	...	...	52	Debility	...	...	139
Nystagmus	...	...	6	Malnutrition	...	...	82
Ptosis	...	...	4	Marasmus	...	...	56
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	3				
Obstructed Lachrymal Duct	...	...	4	Venereal Diseases—			
Epiphora	...	...	1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	4
Corneal Ulcer	...	...	1	Congenital Syphilis	...	...	3
Keratitis	...	...	1				
Proptosis	...	...	1	Rheumatism	...	...	3
Photophobia	...	...	1	Chorea	...	...	4
Styes	...	...	1	Growing Pains	...	...	2
Congenital Cataract	...	...	1				
Not Classified	...	...	11	Miscellaneous—			
				Infectious Diseases	...	...	53
Ear, Nose and Throat—				Injuries	...	...	13
Nasal Catarrh	...	...	542	Deaf and Dumb	...	...	1
Otorrhœa and Otitis	...	...	325	Miscellaneous	...	...	22
Septic and Enlarged Tonsils and							
Adenoids	...	...	316				
Earache	...	...	44				9615
Mouth Breathing	...	...	10				
Laryngitis	...	...	5				

J.—REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE CENTRES.

1.—DR. MARY SCOTT, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	Beaufort	Pengam	Trethomas
	%	%	%
Breast-fed	64.2	52.6	55.4
Artificially fed	29.9	28.9	27.8
Breast and Artificially fed	5.9	18.5	16.8

BEAUFORT CENTRE.—This Centre is open for two hours each week. The total number of babies brought to this Centre shewed a distinct increase over that of the previous year. The attendance of toddlers might also be considered satisfactory, being 222 visits for the year.

The percentage number of breast fed babies attending the Centre during the year increased, being 64.2 per cent. in comparison with 59.2 per cent. during the previous year.

PENGAM CENTRE.—This Centre is open for one whole day, that is two sessions weekly.

The total number of attendances of infants for the year shewed a fairly large increase, while the number of toddlers attending was also satisfactory, being 569 for the year.

Unfortunately the increase in the number of breast-fed babies which we had last year has not been maintained, breast-feeding having dropped by about 8 per cent.

The ladies of the local Infant Welfare Committee continue to take a warm interest in the work of the Centre, and in the welfare of the mothers and babies of this district.

TRETHOMAS.—This Centre is open for one whole day weekly. There was for the year a large increase over the attendance of the previous year, the total attendances being almost doubled. This increase in the attendances can not be looked upon as a true increase. It was in a large part due to the prolonged stoppage of work in this area, and many mothers who do not trouble to attend in normal times brought their babies to the Centre in order to obtain a free supply of milk.

The local Infant Welfare Committee have been very generous with their help to needy mothers and infants.

GENERAL.—In all three Centres the total attendances shewed a large increase over those of previous years. Breast-feeding in two of the Centres has decreased considerably. Why there should be a decided decrease in two of the districts and a very decided increase in the remaining one, namely Beaufort, it is difficult to say. It may be that Pengam and Trethomas, which are industrial areas, have felt the effects of the prolonged depression more than Beaufort, which might be called a semi-rural district. In 1931 too, the resources of the outside voluntary agencies were becoming low, less help was given to the mothers and in consequence their standard of health and capability of breast-feeding would be lowered.

Milk food and fresh milk is given free in Pengam and Trethomas in fairly large quantities. In Pengam dried milk to the value of £38 3s. 4d. was given away during the year. At Trethomas the amount was £46 . 4s. 6d.

In Beaufort the amount given is small. (£26 . 18s. 5d. in 1931).

The work of the Centres continues to be mainly preventative and drugs are not prescribed to any great extent. A fair quantity of an expectorant cough mixture is given at these Centres as by far the most common ailment amongst the babies attending is bronchial catarrh. This is found not only in weakly babies but also in well nourished and otherwise healthy infants.

Many of the mothers attending these Centres during the year have been advised to give children suffering from these respiratory ailments cod liver oil regularly and in most cases the results have been very satisfactory. Although there is difficulty in getting older children to take cod liver oil, infants take it well and appear to enjoy it. It has also the advantage too of being obtained at a very low cost.

Amongst the infants attending the Centres there was no under nourishment; any slight signs of malnutrition being due to improper feeding rather than to insufficient food. Several of the mothers appeared rather undernourished but their numbers were surprisingly few.

Toddlers were brought to the Centres in rather larger numbers than in previous years, but they were brought generally because of some minor ailment and so cannot be taken as examples of the average toddler in these areas.

The disease of rickets seems to be on the increase and shows itself in milder forms even where the child's diet has been correct. It would almost seem that the prolonged industrial depression in these parts is having its effect in some way on the mothers, and the possibility is that the disease has started in the child before birth.

Where there is wrong feeding and overcrowding the disease in toddlers manifests itself in gross deformities—deformities so severe that the only treatment which has been satisfactory has been orthopædic.

No Ante-natal work was carried out at the above Centres. All Ante-natal patients were referred to the nearest Ante-natal Centre.

Many expectant and nursing mothers continue to benefit in health through taking advantage of the dental treatment which is offered them.

2.—Dr. MARY GORDON, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

DETAILS OF FEEDING.

	Caldicot	Caerleon	Newport	Malpas
	%	%	%	%
Breast-fed	44.1	43.4	52.3	58.9
Breast and Artificially fed	10.5	13.2	19.2	14.4
Artificially fed ...	45.4	43.4	28.5	26.7

NEWPORT CENTRE.—This Centre is held on alternate Wednesday afternoons and is attended by mothers and babies from the Gaer, Glasllwch, Liswerry and Maesglas.

There is a very satisfactory increase in the average attendance per session this year—43 compared with 24.1 last year. The majority of the babies came from the Maesglas area where there is a great deal of unemployment and distress owing to irregular work at the Docks, and, as more free food was given to nursing mothers this year, it is satisfactory to find that the number of breast-fed babies has greatly increased—52 per cent. compared with 37 per cent. last year.

The babies on the whole were healthy. 5 cases of mild rickets were seen—2 of those attended the Orthopædic Clinic and had splinting and massage for bowing of the legs.

Four expectant mothers attended and were referred to the Ante-natal Clinic.

There was no evidence of real malnutrition among the nursing mothers, though in 7 cases the nutrition was poor, with consequent lactational deficiency. Attention to dental sepsis greatly improved the health of several mothers.

Of the 69 toddlers who attended, 10 per cent. showed evidence of malnutrition and were between the ages of 1—2 years. Most of them were averagely healthy babies, but once the free milk supply was stopped at one year old, the child was probably given odd scraps of food and tinned milk and the nutrition quickly fell below normal. The granting of free milk for a short time and the giving of cod liver oil improved the general tone. This falling off in health, so noticeable between 1—2 years, makes the child much less resistant to disease germs and so paves the way for ill-health later on.

MALPAS CENTRE.—This Centre, which has been open for two years, and is held on alternate Thursday mornings, was well attended in 1931, the average attendance per session being 38.2 compared with 31.5 the previous year.

Breast-feeding showed a marked rise over the figure for 1930—58.9 per cent. compared with 37 per cent. The increase is partly due to the fact that more babies were on the breast when brought to the Centre for the first time.

As there is little unemployment in the district only a small amount of free food was given away—£2 . 6s. 10d. which is less than the figure for last year.

On the whole, the babies were very healthy. 2 severe cases of eczema in breast-fed babies were referred to the Royal Gwent Hospital. 3 cases of mild rickets were seen—2 attended the Orthopædic Clinic and had splinting and massage for bowing of legs—1 had ultra-violet light treatment and improved considerably.

61 toddlers attended, of whom 24 were from 1—2 years. Contrary to the usual findings, these 1—2 year olds were very fit, only 2 showing marked debility. No malnutrition was found. 1 severe case of rickets with marked curvature of the tibia was seen in a toddler, fed when a baby on a tinned milk without the addition of any vitamins.

The mother was definitely mal-nourished and for financial reasons had been unable to give the child a suitable diet.

Of the nursing mothers who attended, 12 showed lactational deficiency but, with the exception of the case of malnutrition mentioned above, no signs of severe lack of nourishment were observed.

The expectant mothers were referred to the Ante-natal Clinic at Newport.

CAERLEON CENTRE.—This Centre is held on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

The attendance during the year was very satisfactory and the figures showed an increase all round when compared with those of 1930. 34 new babies attended, 700 total attendances were made and the average attendance per session was 28.0 compared with 24.9 the previous year.

Unfortunately there is a drop in the percentage of breast-fed babies—43 per cent. this year as against 60 per cent the previous year, which, however, was a record year for breast-feeding and was the exception rather than the rule—the figure for 1929 being 42 per cent. The decrease is partly to be explained by the fact that more babies were on artificial food when brought to the Centre.

The babies on the whole were very fit. 1 case of mild rickets was seen and 1 case of severe eczema.

30 children between 2—5 years, and 7 between 1—2 years, attended, the former chiefly because of enlarged tonsils, bronchial catarrh and threadworms, the latter on account of debility. No case of malnutrition was observed.

Slightly more free food was given away this year but the increased attendance would account for this.

25 nursing mothers attended, none of whom showed signs of malnutrition, though 8 had lactational deficiency.

Several ladies of the local Infant Welfare Committee attend regularly and their help is greatly appreciated.

CALDICOT CENTRE.—This Centre is held weekly and is a Centre for mothers and babies from Caldicot and the surrounding rural district.

The figures for 1931 show an increase all round compared with 1930—173 on register at end of year, instead of 163; 2269 visits compared with 1626 last year, and an average attendance of 47.2 per session compared with last year's figure of 33.1.

The figure for breast-feeding—44 per cent. was practically the same as last year.

As was pointed out in last year's report the country around Caldicot is low-lying and rather damp, so that bronchial catarrh was again very prevalent. 3 cases of severe eczema were referred to hospital and 2 cases of mild rickets were treated by splinting and massage at the Orthopædic Clinic—1 case treated with ultra-violet light improved greatly.

60 toddlers attended, the chief complaints being enlarged tonsils and adenoids, bronchial catarrh and impetigo. 8 of these, between the ages of 1—2 years, were underweight.

Six expectant mothers were referred to Chepstow Ante-natal Clinic.

Of the 35 nursing mothers who attended, 10 suffered from lactational debility but none showed evidence of malnutrition.

More free food was given away this year than last—the increased attendance would account for this.

3.—Dr. EVELYN D. OWEN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

DETAILS OF INFANT FEEDING.

	Blaina	Rumney	Pontypool
	%	%	%
Breast-fed	48.5	38.5	44.1
Breast and Artificially fed	25.5	26.9	31.6
Artificially fed	26.0	34.6	24.3

BLAINA CENTRE.—The attendances at this Centre have increased considerably during the year. The number on the register rose from 262 in 1930 to 320 in 1931, while the average attendance at each session became 51.7 instead of 35.4.

The percentage of breast-feeding increased from 44.8 per cent. to 48.5 per cent, the breast and artificial feeding also increased slightly, while the purely artificial feeding decreased correspondingly. This improvement is undoubtedly due to the fresh milk given to the necessitous expectant mothers who have consequently been able to breast-feed their babies.

The amount of free food given shows a slight decrease.

77 toddlers aged 2—5 years attended the Centre during the year. 33 of these were found to be definitely underweight. 16 were suffering from enlarged tonsils and adenoids and one who was referred to the Tuberculosis Officer was sent by him to Glan Ely Hospital for treatment for a tuberculous knee.

22 cases of mild and moderate rickets were seen during the year. 6 cases were referred for orthopædic treatment.

Laxatives and tonics for the mothers and cough mixtures and ointments for the babies were the chief drugs used.

The attendance of nursing mothers for advice and treatment increased from 50 to 74. Obvious undernourishment is rare but a large number, 31, were suffering from general debility and many are unduly long in regaining their normal state of health after parturition. Thanks are due to Mrs. Pope and Mrs. Jenkins, the voluntary helpers, who attended regularly during the year and rendered valuable assistance.

RUMNEY CENTRE.—This is a fortnightly Centre which has grown during the year. The number on the register at the end of the year was 99 with an average attendance of 25.3 per session. The previous year there were 82 on the register with an average of 18.7 per session.

The amount of breast-feeding has risen from 35.6 per cent. to 38.5 per cent, but the breast and artificial feeding has dropped considerably, consequently the artificial feeding has risen.

Very little free food is given at this Centre.

The attendance of toddlers was much the same as previously. There is very little undernourishment but three cases of rickets were seen. Five toddlers had enlarged tonsils and adenoids and two had threadworms. On the whole Rumney babies are fine and healthy.

24 nursing mothers sought advice and treatment—an increase on the previous year's attendance which was 15. There was no undernourishment.

PONTYPOOL CENTRE.—This Centre is still increasing. There were 312 on the register at the end of the year (277 in 1930) with an average attendance of 44.8 per session (35.5 in 1930). There was a corresponding increase in the amount of free food given.

The percentage of breast-feeding has diminished from 46 per cent. to 44.1 per cent. but the amount of breast and artificial feeding has increased with a proportionate drop in the amount of purely artificial feeding.

About 10 per cent. of the toddlers who attended were underweight. 8 had enlarged tonsils and adenoids.

41 nursing mothers attended for advice and treatment. Constipation was their commonest complaint.

I should like to express my appreciation of the excellent work done by the Nursing Staff at all three Centres.

4.—Dr. TERESA M. O'RIORDAN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	Abertysswg	Nantyglo	Pontymoile	Panteg	Pontnewydd	Cwmbran
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Breast-fed	54	47.1	36	43.1	29.2	39
Breast and Artificially fed	24	27.0	22	18.7	33.0	22
Artificially fed ...	22	25.9	42	38.2	37.8	39

ABERTYSSWG CENTRE.—At this Centre the percentage of breast-fed infants is 54 in 1931 compared with 56 per cent the previous year, being a slight decrease. The percentage for breast and artificially fed in 1913 was 24 per cent., compared with 20 per cent in 1930, and the percentage of those artificially fed has fallen from 24 per cent. in 1930 to 22 per cent. in 1931.

The number of infants on the register at the end of 1931 was 103, and the number of new cases the same year was 36, compared with 113 and 47 respectively at the end of 1930. In 1931 the total attendance at the Centre was 761, with an average attendance at each session of 15.5. These figures are lower than those of the previous year. At Abertysswg, as at Nantyglo, in winter the weather is often so severe that the mothers wisely refrain from bringing their infants to the Centre on such days. So the very poor attendance on these days of extreme inclemency of the weather reduces considerably the average attendance per session at the Centre.

The mothers come willingly to seek advice on their own ailments and in their eagerness to follow the advice given show their appreciation of this service. The number of attendances of new cases was 40 and the re-visits 184.

The number of attendances of expectant mothers showed a decided improvement. The new cases were 11 and the re-visits were 14 compared with 6 and 12 respectively the previous year. All these cases were referred to the Ante-natal Centre at Rhymney. The special advice—and where necessary, the fresh milk given at this Centre helped the mothers considerably and accounts, in no small way, for the increase in the percentage of breast-fed infants.

The physical condition of the nursing mothers attending the centre was, on the whole very fair. There were only a few exceptions and these mothers were helped with either fresh milk or dried food. This allowance enabled them to breast-feed their babies and which otherwise would not have been possible.

Free food to the value of £29 . 3s. 1d. were supplied during the year as compared with £42 . 14s. 3d. in 1930.

During the year the mothers brought their "toddlers" to the Centre very regularly. It was pointed out to the mothers that for these "toddlers" to cease their visits, after 1 year of age, would be a decided disadvantage for them. The mothers were most willing to co-operate with the Doctor and Health Visitor, and carefully follow the advice offered for these children.

These little ones, whose nutrition was below normal were given either fresh milk, cod liver oil and malt or Roboleine—these being given free when parents, through financial difficulties were unable to provide them.

Five children were referred to the Orthopædic Clinic at Newport. Three were given dental appointments at Rhymney, and three were recommended for operation for the removal of tonsils and adenoids.

As in previous years very few drugs were given at the Centre—only the very simplest being prescribed. The work at the Centre is mainly prophylactic.

NANTYGLO CENTRE.—The percentage of breast-fed infants attending this Centre has increased considerably. It was 35.5 per cent. in 1930, it has reached 47.1 per cent. in 1931. The percentage of breast and artificially fed infants has also increased from 25.5 per cent. in 1930 to 27.0 in 1931. And there is a large decrease in the percentage of artificially fed infants, a decrease from 38.2 per cent. in 1930 to 25 per cent. in 1931.

The number of infants on the register at the end of year was 187 with an average attendance of 32.5 per session compared with 184 and an average attendance of 27.2 per session during 1930. The decided improvement in the average attendance is due to the regular attendance of the same Medical Officer. The previous year the mothers showed indifference when the Medical Officer for the Centre was being constantly changed.

Five children were offered appointments with the Tuberculosis Officer and one infant is at present a patient in Glan Ely Hospital. Two were referred to the Orthopædic Clinic at Newport, and two had consultations with Dr. Coulter for marked strabismus. One child was referred to the family doctor re treatment for appendicitis.

83 nursing mothers visited the Centre during the year. In this Centre, too, the mothers showed, by their repeated visits, their appreciation of the service. The higher percentage of breast-fed babies is evidence of their willingness to follow the advice given both at this Centre and at the Ante-natal Centre at Blaina.

The expectant mothers from the Nantyglo area attend this latter Centre at Blaina, and the care of these expectant mothers by the Medical Officer and the Health Visitor, has produced excellent results as regards the health of the mother and infant.

Free foods to the value of £85 . 9s. 4d. were given at the Centre, during the year compared with £108 . 1s. 2d. the previous year.

The total visits of the "toddlers" to the Centre during the year amounted to 306. Some of these little ones whose nutrition was below normal received either fresh milk, cod liver oil and malt, or some suitable cream emulsion. A marked improvement in their condition was evident after such treatment.

PONTYMOILE CENTRE.—At this Centre the percentage of breast-fed infants is 36 per cent. compared with 55.5 the previous year. The percentage of breast and artificially fed is 22 per cent. and the percentage of artificially fed is 42 per cent. This high figure for the artificially fed infants must be due to deficient lactation in the mothers. This latter deficiency amongst the mothers must be high as the amount of free food given at the Centre during the year is twice the amount of the previous year.

The average attendance at each session during 1931 was 24.9 per cent. compared with 21.5 in 1930, and with 20.04 in 1929.

One infant was referred to the Tuberculosis Officer and one was sent for treatment to the skin department of the Royal Gwent Hospital.

Free foods to the value of £34 . 14s. 8d. were given at the Centre during the year compared with £17 . 4s. 9d. the previous year. The unemployment figure in the area is high which accounts for the marked increase in expenditure re free foods.

PANTEG CENTRE.—The percentage of breast-fed infants in this Centre is 43.1 per cent. compared with 55 per cent. in 1930. The percentage of breast and artificially fed is 18.7 per cent. and the percentage of artificially fed infants is 38.2 per cent. This latter percentage is high and it will be noticed there is a corresponding marked increase in the value of free foods given at the Centre during the year.

The number on the register at the end of the year 1931 was 177 and the total attendance was 1707 compared with 175 and 1228 respectively in 1930. The average attendance at each session was 35.5 per cent. compared with 25.58 in 1930. In 1929 the average attendance was 23.6 per cent. There is a marked increase in this year's average attendance.

Free foods to the value of £37 . 4s. 3d. were given at the Centre during the year compared with £10 . 17s. 3d. the previous year. Again the necessitous condition of the mothers during the year accounts for this marked increase in expenditure re free foods.

The "toddlers" were brought regularly to the Centre and the total number of their re-visits 543 show how much the mothers appreciate this service.

Two children were referred for operation to the tonsils and adenoid Clinic, and two were given appointments at the Dental Clinic.

PONTNEWYDD CENTRE.—At this Centre there is a decrease in the percentage of breast-fed infants—a decrease from 40 per cent. in 1930 to 29.2 in 1931. The percentage of breast and artificially fed infants is 33 per cent. and the percentage of artificially fed is 37.8 per cent.

The number of infants on the register at the end of the year 1931 was 166 compared with 157 in 1930. The average attendance per session was 24.9 in 1931 compared with 21.6 at each session in 1930.

The mothers continued to bring their "toddlers" regularly to the Centre as shown by the total number of their re-visits, which was 285.

Free foods to the value of £88 . 6s. 7d. were given at the Centre during the year, compared with £33 . 14s. 7d. the previous year. The unemployment figure in this area is also very high, so the Medical Officer of this Centre had in very many necessitous cases to help the mothers and infants with free foods if their normal standard of health was to be maintained.

Six children were referred to the Dental Clinic. Three were sent for operation for removal of tonsils and adenoids; two were given appointments at the Orthopædic Clinic at Newport, and two attended the Eye Clinic.

CWMBRAN CENTRE.—There is a slight increase in percentage of breast-fed infants attending the Centre this year, being 39 per cent. compared with 37.8 per cent. for 1930. The percentage of breast and artificially fed is 22 per cent., and the class of artificially fed shows a percentage of 39 per cent.

The number of infants on the register at the end of 1931 was 269, with an average attendance of 36.1 per session, compared with 215 in 1930, with an average attendance of 27.8 per session.

The total attendance of the nursing mothers was 46, a decrease on the previous year when it was 51.

Free foods to the value of £105 . 14s. 5d. were given at the Centre, compared with £67 . 15s. 7d. the previous year. The high unemployment figure in this area, too, is responsible for this increase in the expenditure re free foods.

The “toddlers” continue to attend the Centre regularly. Two children were given dental appointments. Three were referred to the Skin Department of the Royal Gwent Hospital, and two children attended the Venereal Diseases Department of this Hospital.

GENERAL.—At all the Centres very few drugs were prescribed. The work is mainly prophylactic.

All Ante-natal cases are referred to the special Ante-natal Clinics, which are held in the districts, generally once a month.

I wish to express my thanks to the Health Visitors, who work so earnestly, tactfully, and cheerfully. Much of the success of the Centres is due to their untiring efforts. Also I wish to thank the several ladies of the local Infant Welfare Committees for their regular attendance and help throughout the year.

5.—Dr. W. BOWEN OWEN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

RISCA CENTRE.

Details of feeding of infants.

Breast-fed, 54%	Artificially fed, 12%	Both, 34%.
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The average attendance for the year was 85.6, being an increase on the year 1930.

The cost of free foods was £61 . 16s. 6d., being somewhat the same as 1930.

The continued good attendance at the Centre is a source of satisfaction.

From the technical aspect of the Centre's work, the following points are of interest.

1. The method of breast-assisted feeding is usually very successful. When the maternal milk supply is insufficient, the addition of a small amount of artificial food produces a thriving baby.

2. Nasal douching has a beneficial effect on nasal catarrh, especially enabling very young babies to take a feed in comfort.

3. Encouraging results have been obtained by the removal of tonsils and adenoids from "toddlers."

Nursing and expectant mothers continue to seek the advice and help of the Centre. Our voluntary helpers are still faithful to their duties, deserving of every thanks for their loyalty and interest.

6.—Dr. WILLIAM R. NASH, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

NEWBRIDGE CENTRE.

Method of Feeding—

Breast, 55%

Breast and Artificial, 21%

Artificial, 24%

The number of infants on the register during the past year was 306. There was a marked increase in attendance, the average per session being 72.1 as compared with 54.27 during the preceding year.

Both collieries of the district were closed simultaneously for unprecedented lengths of time, and the resultant shortage of work was responsible for an increase in the amount of free dried food and milk issued, both to infants and nursing mothers.

The general health and physical standard of infants attending this Centre are surprisingly high, whilst the same can be said of the standard of home management of the infants.

A few cases of marasmus and rickets were seen and treated, but mild affections of the respiratory and alimentary tracts accounted for much the greater part of the ailments dealt with.

An encouraging feature was the comparatively large number of "toddlers" brought to the Centre for advice and treatment, and when necessary, the readiness of the parents of these to take advantage of the facilities under the County Scheme for the treatment of various conditions. Debilitating conditions following whooping cough and measles, and suspected cases of abdominal tuberculosis were most frequently seen and dealt with amongst the "toddlers."

Considerable use was made of the County Bacteriological Laboratory, and in three cases, vaccines were prepared by the County Bacteriologist. In each case marked improvement followed their use.

One case of active rickets was treated at the Artificial Sunlight Clinic at Newport. The result was good.

Advice and treatment were given to 157 nursing mothers, whilst expectant mothers were in each case referred to the Ante-natal Clinic at Crumlin.

I am indebted to the nursing staff for their unfailing tact in dealing with large numbers of mothers on numerous occasions, whilst the assistance rendered by the voluntary helpers has helped them considerably in the smooth working of the Centre.

7.—Dr. Annie C. Roberts, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

ABERBARGOED CENTRE.—Number of children under 10 months, 210.

Breast-fed	...	...	86	=	41 per cent.
Breast and Bottle	...	...	33	=	16 per cent.
Bottle fed	...	...	91	=	43 per cent.

Breast-feeding has fallen from 46 per cent. to 41 per cent. Bottle feeding has increased from 28 per cent. to 43 per cent. This is due to the fact that an extremely large number of babies have already been weaned before their first visit to the Centre.

The average attendance has risen by 13.8 per cent.

The amount of food given at this Centre has increased greatly and is very large. This is due partly to the fact that not much fresh milk is used here as it is easier to regulate the attendances and the feeding when the infants are on dried milk. Dried milk is also cheaper and averagely the infants on dried milk do better than those on fresh milk. Another reason for the increase is due to the fact that an extremely large number of the toddlers showing a fairly high degree of malnutrition attend this Centre, and a good deal more cod liver oil and virol has been given free this year.

The distress in the area is extreme, and the parents of practically every child attending the Centre are on the dole, parish relief or short time pay.

Simple drugs are given fairly extensively, these being mainly laxatives, tonics and cough medicines, and ointments used in the treatment of common skin complaints.

Ante-natal cases are referred to the New Tredegar Ante-natal Clinic, but if necessary urine testing or a general examination is done.

Children under 1 year are on the whole well nourished but the condition of children from 1 to 2 years is not so good. The health of most of the mothers is not very satisfactory, many of them suffering from some degree of anæmia. This is in great number of cases due to marked pyorrhœa it is possible to have this condition treated at Pengam Dental Clinic.

A large number of children of two years and over (96 on register for 1931) attend this Centre, and many still continue their attendance after commencing school provided they are still under five years of age. As in the school children, marked malnutrition is rare but slight malnutrition is very common and is shown by poor muscular tone and low weight. Children of four years old are better than those of two and three, probably because they are better able to assimilate the unsuitable diet which they are given.

A large number of otorrhœas (24), commencing usually during the teething period, were treated and of the older children aged 2 to 5 years, at least 20 per cent had some enlargement of the tonsils, adenoids, or both.

NEW TREDEGAR CENTRE.—Number of children under 10 months 192.

Breast-fed	...	...	96 = 50 per cent.
Breast and Bottle	...	...	31 = 16 per cent.
Bottle fed	...	...	65 = 34 per cent.

Breast-feeding has fallen from 54 per cent. to 50 per cent., and bottle feeding has risen from 21 per cent. to 34 per cent. Unless the mother is very unhealthy she is advised to continue breast-feeding, but, as at Aberbargoed, many babies brought to the Centre are already weaned before their first visit.

The average attendance has risen by 11.3 per cent.

The higher attendance is due to the larger number of toddlers now coming to the Centre.

The amount of free food given here is a little higher than for the preceding year, probably accounted for by the fact that more dried milk and less cows milk has been used.

The conditions re work are much the same for 1931 as 1930, and many families are still on the dole though not so many as at Aberbargoed.

Laxatives, simple tonics, ointments for skin complaints and blepharitis and cough medicine are the drugs most used at this Centre.

Only very urgent Ante-natal cases are dealt with here *i.e.*, cases near full time who would have some weeks to wait till the date of the next Clinic at the Ante-natal Centre.

As at Aberbargoed, infants under one year are, generally speaking, in good condition and the majority of cases of subnormal nutrition in infants occur between the ages of 1 and 2 years.

About half of the mothers show some degree of malnutrition and anæmia, but it is satisfactory to note that at recent confinements several mothers have produced much healthier infants than previously.

A large number of toddlers now attend this Centre, the number on the register for 1931 being 64. Younger toddlers are brought chiefly on account of chest trouble, debility following infective diseases and sub-normal nutrition; the older ones to get advice re enlarged tonsils and adenoids and to make appointments for dental treatment.

Dental cases and pyorrhœa are very prevalent among the mothers at this Centre and a large number of these were referred for dental treatment at Pengam Clinic. The women themselves are much more anxious to have dental treatment, especially as it is now being advised by their family medical attendants.

8.—Dr. ALICE M. S. DEWAR, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

DETAILS OF FEEDING OF INFANTS.

			Cross Keys	Ynysddu
Breast-fed	...	...	52%	60%
Breast and artificially fed	...	...	25%	14%
Artificially fed	...	...	23%	26%

CROSS KEYS CENTRE.—This Centre shows an increase in numbers from the previous year. The number of children on the register was 111 with an average attendance of 26.4 per session, compared with 94 and 19.4 respectively for 1930. The percentage of breast-fed babies shows a slight decrease, that of the breast and artificially fed group a greater decrease, and the artificial feeding has correspondingly increased.

The amount of free food given in 1931 was more than 3 times that in 1930, but the latter was very small being only one third of that of the previous year. The larger attendances would account for some of the increase. The drugs prescribed were chiefly simple tonics, laxatives and ointments. The attendance of nursing mothers was 33. A large proportion of these (18) were found to be suffering from general debility. Ten expectant mothers attended. These were referred to the Newport Ante-natal Clinic. 22 toddlers attended. Only 4 of these showed evidence of malnutrition. Bronchial catarrh was the chief ailment. Three cases were referred to the Orthopædic Clinic.

YNYSDDU CENTRE.—The number of children on the register was 195 and the average attendance was 29.2 per session. These numbers show a slight decrease from those of 1930. The percentage of breast-fed babies still remains high, being the same as that of the previous year. There is a slight increase in the breast and artificially fed group, while the amount of purely artificial feeding has correspondingly decreased.

Only one half of the amount of free food was given away as compared with 1930.

The drugs prescribed were mostly laxatives and ointments.

Seventy nursing mothers attended. Twenty-one of these were suffering from general debility. Constipation was the commonest complaint. Twenty-six expectant mothers attended. These were referred to the Newport Ante-natal Clinic.

Twenty-two "toddlers" attended. Ten of these were underweight. Bronchial catarrh and threadworms were the chief ailments.

9.—Dr. WILLIAM PANES, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

CWM CENTRE.

METHODS OF FEEDING INFANTS UP TO NINE MONTHS OF AGE :

Breast-fed	...	...	...	...	50%
Breast-feeding, augmented by artificial feeding	...	...	...	...	9.5%
Artificially fed	...	...	...	...	40.5%

Comparing these figures with those for 1930, there is shown to be an increase of 13 per cent. in the number of children fed wholly on the breast; also an increase of 1 per cent. on those fed on the breast, augmented by artificial feeding. Of those infants fed entirely on artificial foods, 46 per cent. were fed on cows' milk.

Mothers feeding their children entirely on artificial foods were advised to supplement with some preparation containing vitamins in concentrated form. This was a precautionary measure taken to avoid the possible occurrence of rickets and other allied deficiency diseases.

The complaints for which infants were treated were chiefly those affecting the gastro-intestinal and respiratory tracts. Skin conditions were also commonly met with. Of complaints affecting the gastro-intestinal tract, constipation was by far the commonest; it was found to be particularly frequent in infants fed on cows' milk. Gastro-enteritis occurred in a few cases in the summer months, but none were severe. One case of congenital pyloric stenosis was seen; this recovered without operation.

The drugs prescribed were chiefly aperients, simple expectorants and ointments.

Attendances.—Infants.—A total of 1,673 attendances were made during the year, and there were 124 new cases. The average attendance per session was 32.7.

The number of "toddlers" attending the Centre for the first time was 29; this number, though small, shows a slight increase over that for the previous year.

Nursing Mothers.—Nursing mothers received advice and treatment in 39 cases; the chief ailments were constipation, anæmia and dental caries. Under-nourishment and debility were noticed in a very few cases only.

Expectant Mothers.—Only one expectant mother attended the Centre during the year. Ante-natal work is carried out for this district at the Ante-natal Clinic at Ebbw Vale.

Free foods to the value of £26 were supplied during the year, a decrease of £12 on the previous year.

10.—Dr. P. R. WHITAKER, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

NATURE OF FEEDING.—

	Blackwood	Usk	Oakdale	Crumlin	Rogerstone
	%	%	%	%	%
Breast-fed ...	54	55	60	45	70
Breast and Artificially fed	15	20	9	7	6
Artificially fed ...	31	25	31	48	24

Average percentage of breast-feeding :—

1927	...	59%
1928	...	64%
1929	...	63%
1930	...	56%
1931	...	56.8%

BLACKWOOD CENTRE.—The average attendance of infants at each session during the year shows a marked increase, being 71.6. The number on the Register has risen from 301 to 364, while the total attendances were 1,648 as against 1,512 last year.

The percentage of breast-feeding shows a “drop” of 7 per cent., but the number of “breast and artificially” fed has risen about 0.5 per cent. There is a corresponding increase in the number of babies being fed artificially.

Ante-natal cases are referred to Oakdale Centre for special examination, but attend at this Centre for advice and supervision. 88 cases attended, 53 being new cases, an increase on last year's number.

The number of “toddlers” attending during the year was good, being 483, of which 66 were new cases.

USK CENTRE.—The number on the Register at the end of the year was 67, and the average attendance per session was 12.7. This is a decrease on last year's figure, and is disappointing, but as the mothers come long distances from the surrounding country districts, the attendance varies directly with the weather conditions, which were bad during the past year.

The total attendances were 306 as against 329 last year.

The percentage of breast-feeding has fallen from 60 per cent. to 55 per cent.

The number of “toddlers” attending was 165, of which 13 were new cases.

The Ante-natal work is progressing; the number attending shows an increase, being 17 for the year.

Since last year the Centre has moved to more suitable premises, which are proving very satisfactory so far, but as next year's figure for the number of attendances is likely to prove, may be inadequate as regards accommodation. The whole aspect of this Centre has improved with recent years, and the mothers attend very regularly and take a far greater interest in the Centre. This is due almost entirely to the excellent work of the Health Visitor, and the constant and loyal support of the Voluntary Helpers.

OAKDALE CENTRE.—The attendance at this Centre remains good, the average for the year being 42.6 per session as compared to 42 last year.

The total attendance of infants was 1,024 and the number on the Register was 173. This is an increase on last year's number.

The "toddlers" attend well and regularly here, the number of new cases being 30, and the total visits for the year was 345.

The percentage of breast-fed babies shows a slight decrease of 1 per cent., being 60 per cent., but this is good compared with most other areas.

CRUMLIN CENTRE.—This Centre is a half-day session and is held once a week. The total attendances were 1,380 as against 1,330 last year. The average attendance per session shows a slight increase, being 28.7. Of the total number of "toddlers," *i.e.*, 333, five were new cases.

The progress of this Centre is very satisfactory, the mothers attend regularly and well, and take a great interest in the welfare of their children.

The percentage of breast-feeding shows a marked decrease, having fallen by 11 per cent. This is disappointing, but inevitable, under the present industrial conditions.

ROGERSTONE CENTRE.—This Centre increases steadily each year, and its progress is very encouraging. Although the average attendance at each session was 33.4 as against 35.7 last year, the number on the Register at the end of the year was 155 compared with 134 last year.

"Toddlers" at this Centre numbered 295, of which seven were new cases.

Ante-natal cases are referred to the Newport Ante-natal Clinic. Thirteen new cases attended and nine re-visited.

The percentage of breast-fed babies at this Centre is the highest yet obtained here, and is gratifying in view of the decrease at every other Centre. This figure, 70 per cent., is probably due to the large proportion of young mothers with their first babies now attending this Centre.

GENERAL.—The attendance at the various Centres shows an all-round increase again this year, most marked in the Blackwood Centre.

The percentage of breast-feeding is not so good as last year, with the exception of Rogerstone, all showing a fall varying from 1 per cent. to 11 per cent. This is disappointing but inevitable under the present trade depression. That the percentage is not lower still may be argued to be due to the large amount of fresh and dried milk being now supplied to the nursing mothers.

The amount of free foods given at the various Centres has increased tremendously during the past year, almost twice as much in some districts. An ever increasing number of nursing mothers seem unable to feed their babies without assistance in the form of supplemented milk supply.

Drugs supplied consist mainly in the form of simple tonics, aperients, cough mixture, etc.

There is still some evidence of under-nourishment among the mothers, indicated by the general increase of babies who are entirely artificially fed.

The number of "toddlers" attending the Centres is satisfactory, and of these there were about 4—5 per cent. showing under-nourishment. Accordingly the amount of free food given in the form of cod liver oil, Roboleine, etc., has increased. In practically every case the response to this addition to the child's diet has been shown by improved general condition and better and more restful sleep.

There is a marked increase in the number of mothers attending the Centres who apply for dental treatment. Often the only reason for deferring urgent extractions is the knowledge that there is no prospect of having a "set" as finances will not allow of it.

11.—Dr. R. J. S. VERITY, Medical Officer of Health, Abersychan Urban District Council.

Details of Feeding Infants.

	Abersychan	Garndiffaith	Pontnewynydd
Breast-fed	82	72	129
Dried Milk	52	49	66
Breast and Artificial ...	9	10	21

ABERSYCHAN, GARNDIFFAITH AND PONTNEWYNYDD CENTRES.—

The attendances at each of the Centres continue to be satisfactory, and shows an increase upon former years.

The amount of free food has also increased, owing to the extent of unemployment in the district during the year.

Ante-natal cases are referred to the special clinic which is held at Abersychan.

Many "toddlers" attended during the year. There were no signs of under-nourishment.

The work at the Centres has been carried on on the same lines as previously. It is mainly prevention, and consequently drugs are not prescribed to any great extent. Attention is given to proper feeding, which is the basis of health in infants. Although artificial food is often ordered, it is satisfactory to know that there is a great increase in the number of breast-fed children. The number of children on the register at each Centre has increased. The mothers attend regularly and carry out the instructions given.

12.—Dr. J. REYNOLDS, Medical Officer of Health, Blaenavon Urban District Council.

BLAENAVON CENTRE.

Details of Methods of Feeding Infants—

Breast-fed	...	...	77	Dried Milk	...	...	68
Nestles Milk	...	...	12	Cows' Milk	...	...	14

The attendance at the Centre was the same at that of the previous year. Foods are given free in necessitous cases. Drugs are prescribed when necessary, but no dispensing is done at the Centre. There is no Ante-natal work at this Centre, a special session being held in Blaenavon once a month.

13.—Dr. F. M. FONSECA, Medical Officer of Health, Ebbw Vale Urban District Council.

Feeding of infants under 12 months of age—

Breast-fed	...	...	238	Breast and Bottle	...	...	28
Cows' Milk	...	...	23	Dried Milk	...	...	34
Nestles Milk	...	...	38	Patent Foods	...	...	38

EBBW VALE CENTRE.—There has been a decrease in the attendance at the Centre during the year. The distribution of free food is only supplied at the public expense after strict enquiry of the actual necessities of the cases. There has been an increase, due to unemployment.

The drugs at the disposal of the Centre are used as far as practicable. In cases which require closer observation and further treatment than the weekly meetings permit, parents are advised to consult their own medical attendant.

The Ante-natal Clinic established a few years ago has made considerable progress, and the attendances have increased and are increasing, which is evidence of the popularity of this Clinic.

The number of under-nourished mothers or infants attending the Centre is not noticeable to the extent as might be expected after the prolonged depression. Those affected are attributable to shortage of employment in the coalfield area.

Very few "toddlers" between the age of 2 and 5 years attend the Centre, and up to the present, only a small proportion show any evidence of being under-nourished.

The Ante-natal work, which is held for half a day on the third Tuesday of each month, has increased considerably, as mentioned above. In view of this, a full day's session should be considered.

14.—Dr. G. W. PARRY, Abergavenny.

ABERGAVENNY CENTRE.—This Centre is open on market days each week and takes children and mothers from the town and a large agricultural district.

The total attendance was 1,575, and the average per session 32.8.

Breast-feeding is much the commonest method, though the number so fed is less than last year, as many mothers do not seem able to go on beyond four or five months.

The number receiving free food has also increased, since the fall in unemployment pay has brought many families within the scope of the schedule sent to medical officers, and many apply.

Pulmonary complaints are the most frequent, with gastro-intestinal ailments next. There has been a falling off in the number of skin complaints, as mothers are beginning to learn more about them. Cough medicine and ointments are the drugs chiefly used.

The amount of under-nourishment is not great, but one cannot help feeling it is a good deal more than last year. It is still largely confined to babies under one year.

I must express my thanks for much valuable help given to all attending by the nurses and by the voluntary helpers.

15.—Dr. W. H. WILLIAMS, Medical Officer of Health, Monmouth.

MONMOUTH CENTRE.—The attendances at this Centre show a further increase for the year under review.

The methods of feeding infants at this Centre have been the same as in previous years, that is, breast-feeding has been maintained as long as it has been desirable for the health of the infant and mother.

The figures for the past year show that at the end of the "sixth month" 68 per cent. were breast-fed, 15 per cent. were fed with cows' milk and 17 per cent. with dried milks.

The amount of free foods granted has been about the same as last year. Each case is investigated by a Committee which meets monthly.

The dispensing of medicines has been rather above the average owing to the large number of colds and coughs occurring among infants.

The Ante-natal work will be reported upon separately.

Very little under-nourishment has been detected, and it has been immediately remedied.

The attendance of "toddlers" has been increased during the year, but none of them were found to be undernourished.

The interest in the Centre, I'm glad to say, is unabated, and the attendance of the voluntary workers is regular and punctual.

16.—Dr. E. T. H. DAVIES, Medical Officer of Health, Tredegar Urban District Council.

TREDEGAR CENTRE.—Details of Methods of Feeding Infants.—

Breast-fed	...	...	139	Breast and Artificial	...	29
Dried Milk	...	...	97	Cows' Milk	...	20
Nestles' Milk	...	...	18	Nestles' and Virol	...	6
Patent Foods	...	...	3			
Nursing Mothers receiving fresh milk to enable breast-feeding					...	61

17.—Dr. R. V. de A. REDWOOD, Medical Officer of Health, Rhymney Urban District Council.

DETAILS OF METHODS OF FEEDING INFANTS—

Breast-fed	...	...	...	...	80
Breast, supplemented by Artificial feeding	...	...	...	...	22
Artificial Food	...	...	...	...	40

The numbers attending are about the same as in 1930. The numbers are well maintained.

A quantity of free food is given owing to the number unemployed. The amount of unemployment is about the same as in 1930. I believe the free food is essential in these cases if the infants are to make normal progress.

As in former years a few drugs and simple ointments are given; other medicines and drugs are obtained by the mothers at their respective surgeries. Much dispensing would seriously interfere with the other work of the Centre.

The number of Ante-natal attendances is increasing. A special Clinic is held once a month.

The cases of under-nourishment are more than the average owing to unemployment, irregular work and low wages.

There was an increase in the number of "toddlers" who attended this year. The amount of under-nourishment was above the average owing to unemployment.

All cases of infants and mothers, when necessary, are referred to the Rhymney Cottage Hospital for further examinations and treatment—a number of circumcisions, abscess of breast, etc.

Orthopædic cases are referred to Dr. A. Rocyn Jones, and seen by appointment at Newport.

The Local Committee, *i.e.*, the County Councillors and lady helpers take an enthusiastic interest in the Centre; and the Secretary, Mrs. Hopkins, as in former years continues to give much valuable time and help.

18.—Dr. T. L. DRAPES, Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow.

CHEPSTOW CENTRE.—The work of the Child Welfare Centre has been carried on, on much the same lines as in former years. At the end of the year the number of cases on the register was 236. During the year 126 new cases attended the Centre of which 96 were under the age of one year. The total number of attendances was 2167, giving an average of 45.1 at each session. This is slightly less than has been the case in some previous years, due to the fact that some cases now attend the Centre at Caldicot, who would formerly have come to Chepstow.

By far the largest number of ailments for which advice is sought are those of the alimentary and respiratory systems.

Breast-feeding is advocated wherever possible and it is only in rare instances that one finds a mother who is unwilling to nurse her infant if it is possible to do so. When nature fails, the deficiency is either replaced or augmented by a proprietary food. This almost always takes the form of one of the various preparations of dried milk on the market, those in most general use being Ambrosia, Ostermilk or Glaxo, all of which have given very satisfactory results. In some cases citrated cows milk is used, but on the whole most satisfactory results are obtained by using a dried preparation. A certain amount of free food is distributed. In each case the family budget is investigated, and it is only in those cases which are considered to be really necessitous that such a course is adopted. The amount thus distributed is much the same as last year.

A fair amount of simple drugs are prescribed. They consist mainly of expectorant and stomachic mixtures and a few simple ointments. Such preparations as ostelin, virol, cod liver oil and malt can be purchased at cost price.

There have been very few cases of under-nourishment of either mothers or infants during the year. Mothers who have attended with their infants during their first year frequently continue to attend at intervals for the next few years. This is not infrequently due to the arrival of another infant, and it is not at all uncommon to have a mother accompanied by her infant, and one or more “toddlers” at the same time. The total number of attendances of children from 1 to 5 years old was 1,245.

Ante-natal work is under the supervision of Dr. Mary Scott, who attends once a month. Expectant mothers, especially primipara are encouraged to attend. In one case, where trouble was anticipated, arrangements were made for the patient to be admitted to a maternity home at Cardiff.

The success of the Clinic is largely due to the efforts of Sister Webb and the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Evill, to whom I extend my most cordial thanks.

19.—Dr. E. M. GRIFFITH, Medical Officer of Health, Abercarn Urban District Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS :—

Breast-fed	...	...	230	Dried Milk	...	38
Breast and bottle	...	...	21	Miscellaneous	...	26

ABERCARN CENTRE.—The numbers attending have kept up wonderfully, especially when one remembers that the birth-rate has fallen very considerably during the past year.

In the great majority of cases breast-feeding was carried out. No doubt more so than in normal times—the object being to save the cost of bottle feeding.

The continued industrial depression, which has become very much more marked during 1931, has led to a great increase in the number of infants on the “free list.” This, of course, is unavoidable under the circumstances.

The amount of drugs prescribed at this Centre is very small—about the same as last year, and certainly not more than £5 annually.

No cases of under-nourishment were noted amongst children. Some of the nursing mothers have certainly suffered, but not more than six or seven.

Toddlers.—A considerable number of these were seen. No cases of under-nourishment were noted.

In conclusion I would wish to again thank the Health Visitors—Nurse Lord and Nurse James—for their devoted work, and also the voluntary workers, without whom it would be difficult indeed to carry on.

20.—Dr. T. B. SMITH, Medical Officer of Health, Abertillery Urban District Council.

CENTRE	INFANTS (0-1 year)				CHILDREN (1-5 years).				
	No. on Register 31st Dec., 1931.	No. of Attendances		No. of Re-visits		Total		Total Attendances, all ages.	Average Attendance per Session.
		New Cases under 1 yr.	New Cases 1-5 years	Under 1 year	1-5 years	Under 1 year	1-5 years		
Abertillery	688	265	56	2537	1450	2802	1506	4308	89.7
Llanhilleth	394	154	40	1568	735	1722	775	2497	52.0
Six Bells	311	150	23	1519	712	1669	735	2404	50.1
Total all Centres	1393	569	119	5624	2897	6193	3016	9209	64.0

A comparison of this table with the same table printed in the reports of previous years shows that the attendances at the Centres are being well maintained, thus continuing to show the great appreciation in which this work is held by the community.

Infants are brought regularly to the various Centres by the mothers and the advice given on their care and feeding is as a rule very carefully followed by the mothers. I believe that it is this advice on infant care and welfare that is aiding in an appreciable degree to reduce the Infantile Mortality in the area.

The exact percentage of breast-fed and other infants I am unable to state, as to obtain this figure accurately would mean a most careful extraction of the various record books kept at the Centres and time does not permit of this at the moment. The methods of feeding infants are varied according to the advice given individually to each mother by the Medical Officer on consultation. Some mothers change the method of feeding from breast to other foods on their own account or on the advice of some other mother who has found a certain food satisfactory to her baby. These methods I deplore, when skilled advice can always be obtained either from their own doctor or the various Centres.

Apart from breast-feeding the other methods consist mostly of the "dried milks" of various kinds supplied at the Centres. Insufficient use is made of fresh milk, and to foster this method pamphlets ought to be printed, giving the various quantities and strengths of fresh milk suitable for infant feeding at varying ages.

Two factors which strike me forcibly are the excellent conditions in which the mothers keep their babies as regards cleanliness and the great interest they display in the gradual development and nutrition of their off-spring.

Quite a number of "toddlers" attended the various Centres as can be seen from the tables, the figures this year being kept separate from those of the actual infants. Many of those "toddlers" were suffering from the "after-effects" of various diseases, and where necessary milk was supplied which almost invariably helped rapidly to ameliorate their condition. The problem of the "toddler" is totally different from that of the infants

under one year of age, and in my opinion to do them justice separate Centres should be instituted. It is a problem well worth discussion in spite of the financial stringency, as it is very often at this age that a great many of the physical disabilities and other illnesses which incapacitate children during school life arise, and periodical medical examination between the age of two and five years would lead to early diagnosis and treatment, which is so essential. Much more could be written on this problem, but let this suffice to bring it to your notice.

Squint in "Toddlers."—A number of cases of Squint were met with in "toddlers," and proper facilities for the treatment of this condition and the supply of spectacles where required should be made.

Year	Population	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Deaths under one year of age	Infantile Mortality	Deaths from Puerperal Fever	Deaths from Disease and Accidents of Parturition
1913	38,700	1,482	38.2	160	107.9	0	2
1916	39,166	1,073	27.3	100	93.1	2	4
1919	44,554	1,037	23.2	104	100.2	3	5
1921	38,805	1,242	31.3	127	102.2	—	—
1925	39,260	768	19.5	63	82.0	1	1
1928	32,840	621	17.3	44	70.8	1	2
1929	32,840	595	18.1	41	68.9	1	3
1930	32,840	600	18.2	34	56.6	1	1
1931	31,799	558	18.4	41	69.7	—	3

The years 1921 and 1931 are Census years, and the figures of population taken are the actual Census figures.

The marked fall in the population will be observed, and the still more remarkable decline in the number of births and also of the infantile mortality.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Two cases were notified as against three last year—one was of a severe type and made a good recovery, the other was of a mild nature. The case reported last year associated with severe corneal ulceration of the left eye has been kept under observation and has made a most satisfactory improvement.

This is a preventable disease. "Eye drops" are supplied from the Centres to the midwives for instilling into the child's eye at birth to prevent the development of this disease, which in years gone by accounted for quite a proportion of our blind.

Measles.—There was almost a complete absence of Measles in young children.

Whooping Cough.—There were several cases of Whooping Cough in infants and "toddlers." The disease was of a mild nature.

There were no fatal cases of Measles or Whooping Cough.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis.—The incidence and severity of this disease in infants has declined considerably in recent years. Most of the cases were of a mild nature, but the increased incidence lasted longer than usual, extending almost up to the end of the year. Two deaths occurred in children under one year of age.

Rickets.—Eight cases of this disease were diagnosed at the various Centres. Appropriate advice and treatment were given. As a result of deformity arising therefrom three cases were referred to and examined by the Consulting Orthopædic Surgeon with a view to the correction of those deformities when the proper time arrived.

In all of those cases defects of dietary were found and most of them also suffered from lack of being taken out sufficiently in the fresh air. This latter factor is most important in rickets—equally, if not more important than proper dieting.

Fresh milk was supplied in most cases.

CENTRE	NURSING MOTHERS.			EXPECTANT MOTHERS.		
	No. of Attendances.			No. of Attendances.		
	New Cases	Re-visits	Total	New Cases	Re-visits	Total
Abertillery ...	32	47	79	18	10	28
Llanhilleth ...	9	54	63	17	37	54
Six Bells ...	11	29	40	12	26	38
Total all Centres	53	130	182	47	73	120

An Ante-natal Clinic has now been established at Abertillery, and all expectant mothers were referred to this Clinic. This accounts for the decline in the number of expectant mothers attending at the various Centres.

The Ante-natal Clinic is held on the second Tuesday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) of each month at the Tabernacle Schoolroom, Abertillery.

The Ante-natal Clinic for the lower end of the district is held on alternate Fridays (10 a.m. to 12 noon) at "The Clinic," 4 Hafodyrynys Road, Crumlin.

The figures of expectant mothers attending these Clinics will be found on another page of the report.

Judging by the number of enquiries made by expectant mothers the attendance averages, especially at the Clinic at Abertillery, should be very high—higher, I am afraid, than can be dealt with in one daily session per month.

The diseases of mothers and children attending the Centres are much the same as have been dealt with in previous reports, and call for no special comment apart from the fact that although there has been some extension for the treatment of the various diseases peculiar to women, existing facilities do not yet meet the demand.

Some of the younger children would also benefit by sun-light treatment and also by hospital treatment in special cases.

No convalescent homes, apart from Southerndown, to which all in this area do not subscribe, exist for the benefit of mothers or children.

Number of cases referred for Dental Treatment, 1931.—				Infants.	Mothers..
Abertillery Infant Welfare Centre	...	...	...	—	3
Llanhilleth Infant Welfare Centre	...	...	...	5	41
Six Bells Infant Welfare Centre	...	...	...	2	2

You will note the number of nursing mothers from the Llanhilleth Centre who took advantage of the facilities provided for Dental Treatment by the County Council.

Insufficient facilities are provided for the Dental Treatment of “toddlers.”

Number and type of Orthopædic Cases.—				Referred to Consultant Surgeon.	Examined by Consultant Surgeon.
Abertillery I.W.C.—					
Outward Curved Tibia	...	...	...	1	1
Talipes Varus	...	...	...	1	—
Rickets	...	...	...	3	3
Llanhilleth I.W.C.—	...	...	...	—	—
Six Bells I.W.C.—	...	...	...	—	—

One case was admitted to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital during the year.

Cases of deformity are referred to the Consulting Orthopædic Surgeon, Dr. A. Rocyn Jones.

The above figures referred only to new cases which have come under observation during the year, and do not include the cases that are being followed up from previous years.

K.—SALE OF INFANT FOODS, &c., AT THE CENTRES.

The facilities for the purchase at the Infant Welfare Centres of infant foods, etc., continue to be of advantage to the mothers attending the Centres.

The wages earned by many of the men employed in the works and collieries of the County continue very low, and unemployment is still prevalent throughout the County. The service for the provision of infant foods at a little over cost price, therefore, meets a real necessity.

Dried milks, malt extracts and other infant foods to the value of £6,650 . 1s. 5d., were purchased for sale and for distribution to necessitous cases at the Centres during the year.

A small sum is added to the cost price of the artificial foods sold at the Centres, and this in some measure sets off the loss incurred on the articles given gratis. At a few of the Centres there are voluntary funds, out of which foods are given free to mothers who do not come within the regulations governing the County Scheme.

The Health Visitors are instructed to take care that only those mothers who regularly attend with their babies at the Centres, and who cannot pay the prevailing high prices, are served with the foods.

In cases where the income to the home is below the scale fixed by the County Council, infants' foods can be obtained either free of cost, or at half cost. The depression of trade in the County, and particularly in the coal-producing districts during the year caused an increased demand for this assistance, and goods to the value of £5,941 2s. 6d. were given for necessitous expectant and nursing mothers and infants. This amount included £3,093 . 3s. 1d. paid for fresh milk, and it is the largest figure for any year since the commencement of the scheme, excepting the coal stoppage year, 1921, as the following table will show.

1919	...	...	£140 15 0	1925	...	...	£1,766 14 0
1920	...	...	£537 18 11	1926	...	...	£2,469 7 6
1921	...	...	£5,984 0 0	1927	...	...	£2,817 18 4
(Coal Stoppage : Dinners also given).				1928	...	...	£3,844 1 1
1922	...	...	£2,232 14 3	1929	...	...	£5,092 18 8
1923	...	...	£1,548 6 7	1930	...	...	£4,787 2 6
1924	...	...	£1,170 3 8	1931	...	...	£5,941 2 6

All applications for free food are decided upon the income going into the home in accordance with a scale fixed by the County Council and demanded by the Ministry of Health.

L.—INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

The following table gives particulars of the training, etc., of the Midwives upon the County Roll at the 31st December, in each year from 1912 to 1931 :—

Year	Number Literate	Number Illiterate	Total No. on Roll	No. holding C.M.B. Certificate	No. holding other Certificates	No. untrained but registered	No. over 60 years of age
1931	237	4	241	219	—	22	35
1930	237	4	241	215	—	26	35
1929	245	4	249	222	—	27	35
1928	238	4	242	211	—	31	40
1927	248	5	253	219	—	34	36
1926	243	5	248	211	—	37	32
1925	241	7	248	208	—	40	35
1924	242	11	253	203	—	50	38
1923	231	14	245	190	—	55	42
1922	224	16	242	178	—	64	49
1921	214	18	232	168	—	68	38
1920	211	22	233	160	—	73	48
1919	212	25	237	159	—	78	53
1918	184	31	215	123	—	92	49
1917	203	37	240	131	1	108	58
1916	214	37	251	135	4	112	58
1915	208	42	250	117	4	129	73
1914	207	53	260	100	6	154	111
1913	194	59	253	89	6	158	87
1912	191	62	253	87	5	161	71

It will be observed that the number of untrained midwives, *i.e.*, those placed upon the roll by virtue of their being in practice prior to the year 1901, is decreasing every year, and there are only 17 practising (5 are on Roll but not practising); 4 of them are illiterate.

We are gradually reaching the realisation of the ideal of a skilled midwifery service. The period of training of midwives has been extended from 6 to 12 months, and a better educated type of woman is taking up the work.

The success of a Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme depends largely upon the practising midwives, who are asked to co-operate with the Welfare Centres and Ante-natal Clinics and look upon them as places where they can send their patients to have any abnormality discovered. They are welcomed to attend the Clinics with their cases and hear them discussed. It is gratifying to record that the midwives of the County heartily respond to this invitation.

The total number of names removed from the Midwives' Roll during 1931 was 14; 10 through removal from the County, 2 through death, 1 through ill-health, and 1 through resignation.

The total number of visits paid to midwives in the Urban and Industrial Areas by Mrs. Dorè, the Inspectress of Midwives, and by Nurse Olwen Griffiths in the Rural Areas was 1,473 visits and 954 examinations. During the visits the following information regarding the midwives was elicited :—

Not at home	...	...	457	Away nursing private cases	...	3
Ill	...	...	22	Wishes to resign	...	2
Not commenced practising	...	...	3	Duty at Hospitals	...	4
Not working at the time	...	...	28			

In 17 instances unsatisfactory conditions were found, viz. :—

Cannot take pulse and temperature	9	Cannot chart pulse and temperature	5
Bag left at case	1	Does not keep Ante-natal Book	1
Should keep nails shorter	1		

There are upon the County Roll two midwives who cannot take pulse and temperature, one who can take but cannot chart pulse and temperature, and one who cannot take pulse.

Midwifery scholarships were provided by the Education Committee as in previous years. (See Section L.)

1,589 (1,707 reasons) notifications of sending for medical aid, and 142 of cases of still-birth, were received from midwives during the year.

Also 11 notifications of deaths of mothers, 20 notifications of children dying a few hours after birth, 21 notifications of artificial feeding, 11 notifications from midwives who were liable to be a source of infection, and 9 notifications of having laid out a dead body.

The reasons given in sending for medical aid were as follows :—

High temperature	...	...	41	Retained placenta	...	...	65
Obstructed labour	...	...	24	Prolapse of uterus	...	...	2
Premature labour	...	...	9	Hæmorrhage, post-partum	...	...	55
Prolapse of cord	...	...	8	Ruptured perineum	...	...	203
Hæmorrhage, ante-partum	...	...	51	Abortion	...	...	44
Hæmorrhage (not defined)	...	...	20	Still-birth	...	...	29
Contracted pelvis	...	...	7	Unsatisfactory condition of child			75
Prolonged and difficult labour			533	Eye affections	...	...	101
Premature birth	...	...	37	Doctor engaged	...	...	18
Abnormal presentation—				Watery blisters	...	...	11
Breech	...	...	36	Threatened Abortion	...	...	20
Face	...	...	12	Unsatisfactory condition of mother			154
Hand	...	...	3	Deformity of child	...	...	20
Transverse	...	...	13	Uterine Inertia	...	...	44
Vertex	...	...	31	Born before arrival	...	...	4
Foot	...	...	6	Miscellaneous	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	25				

Suspension of midwives to prevent the spread of infection was necessary in 10 cases, 8 on account of puerperal fever, 1 scarlet fever, and 1 chicken pox.

M.—PROVISION OF MIDWIVES FOR THE COUNTY.

The Midwives Acts, 1902 and 1918 are administered by the County Public Health Committee, acting as the Local Supervising Authority, for which the County Medical Officer acts as Executive Officer. The district nursing is provided under the scheme of the Monmouthshire Nursing Association, of which Lady Mather Jackson is the Honorary Secretary.

The Monmouthshire Nursing Association undertakes the training of pupil midwives for the Monmouthshire Education Committee. They were requested to make this provision at the instance of the County Council, after the passing of the Midwives Act in 1902.

Good work continues to be accomplished by the Association, both in the training of pupil midwives and in the provision of nurses for district nursing. At the present time there are 28 constituent Associations affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association, and 32 nurses are employed by them. There are in addition 6 nurses on the staff of the Tredegar Nurses' Home, and 1 at the Tredegar Maternity Home. The aims of the Association have been fully stated in previous reports.

The Nurses' Home at Tredegar, which is recognised by the Central Midwives Board as a training centre for midwifery pupils, passed out 3 pupils during the year, one of whom was unsuccessful in obtaining the Central Midwives' Board Certificate. The fourth pupil was unable to sit for her Examination owing to illness, but will sit in May. Since the establishment of the Training Centre 19 years ago, 87 pupils have received midwifery training, 84 have passed the C.M.B. examinations, 2 have failed, and one refused to sit the examination after being trained. 2 pupils have also received six months' general training at the Home, in addition to the midwifery training.

Dr. Mary Scott, Assistant Medical Officer, is the approved Lecturer to the pupil midwives. The Home is now sufficiently large to accommodate the scholarship pupils as well as the staff. The period of training of midwives is twelve months.

A grant of £350 was made during the year 1931 by the County Education Committee to provide six midwifery scholarships, value £38 . 11s. 4d. each, and in addition, six months' district training in general nursing for two pupils. If it should happen that the six scholarships are not taken up in the year, the amount of the grant is proportionately reduced. The question of the temporary cessation of this grant is being considered by the Committee.

The Nurses' Home of the Monmouthshire Nursing Association at Tredegar has a maternity ward. The Home is approved by the Central Midwives' Board for the full training of midwives under the new regulations. There are eight maternity beds provided at the Home, six of which are effective beds in accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives' Board. During the year 1931, 73 maternity cases were dealt with at the Home, as compared with 84 in 1930. 56 of these cases were delivered by midwives and 16 by doctors, one of these was admitted after delivery. There were 2 maternal deaths, 2 stillbirths, and 4 deaths of infants within 10 days of birth. There were 265 Ante-natal attendances at the Home during the year.

Under the Local Government Act, 1929, the grants hitherto made to the Home by the Ministry of Health are now being paid by the County Council. They amount to approximately £127 per annum.

A grant of £475 per annum for a maximum period of 10 years is given by the County Council to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association in connection with the provision of the Maternity Home at Tredegar.

PROVISION OF MIDWIVES IN RURAL AREAS.—A grant of approximately £600 per annum is made to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association to subsidise the provision of trained midwives in the rural areas of the County, in accordance with the scheme of the County Medical Officer, which was approved by the County Public Health Committee and the Local Government Board in October, 1917.

During the year 1931, midwives were subsidised in the following areas:—

Llantilio Crossenny.	Raglan.	Caldicot.
Llantilio Pertholey.	Itton.	Monmouth.
Goytre and Llanover.	Llanfoist.	Llanfrechfa Lower.
Tintern and St. Arvans.	Llandogo and Trelleck.	Llanarth.
Usk.	Abersychan.	
Llangattock-vibon-avel.	Penhow.	

N.—COUNTY SCHEME FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The scheme under which Local Maternity and Child Welfare Committees have been set up to render assistance at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres has been set out in detail in previous reports. There are 24 Committees, the majority of which are very active and are rendering useful assistance to the mothers and infants attending the Centres.

The scheme was originally intended to serve Maternity and Child Welfare only, but in the year 1929, the County Committee decided to ask the Local Committees to also undertake the after-care of Tuberculosis and the Welfare of the Blind. Schemes have been drafted, and the Local Committees are prepared to administer them, the provision being made, in the case of Tuberculosis that the necessary funds are supplied by the County Council. The Committees are co-operating with the County Association for the Blind in the Welfare of the Blind and this part of the scheme can be said to have been satisfactorily inaugurated.

O.—TRAINING OF ELDER GIRLS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

It has always been the object of this department to stimulate interest in the teaching of infant care and management to elementary school girls. The older scholars of Girls' Departments are taught infant care and hygiene at the Domestic Arts Centres of the elementary schools of the County. It is not sufficient to train girls to make them competent to take up business careers. They should also learn how to become wise and healthy mothers. It naturally follows that a girl who has the scientific aspect of Maternity and Child Welfare instilled into her at school will appreciate the benefits of the Welfare Centre in her married life.

P.—PROVISIONS FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

CASES AT HOSPITALS, Etc.

1.—PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.—The joint scheme of the County Council and Education Committee, whereby beds are reserved at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, London, was in full operation during the year. The reservation of beds is 24.

Mr. A. Rocyn Jones, M.B.,B.S., (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), the Consultant Orthopædic Surgeon, visits the Central Orthopædic Clinic, Newport, once a month for the purpose of examining new cases, and re-examining children who have received treatment at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital. The following children under five years of age were seen by him during the year :—

Rickets	...	...	7	Dislocated Shoulder	...	1
Torticollis	...	...	3	Injury, Wrist	...	1
Pes Planus	...	...	6	Bowing of Legs	...	3
Talipes Equino Varus	...	...	1	Not walking properly	...	1
Congenital Dislocation of Hip	...	...	2	Fracture, Forearm	...	1
Birth Palsy	...	...	2	Poliomyelitis	...	1
Weakness	...	...	3	Walks with Waddling Gait	...	1
No physical signs	...	...	1	Dislocated thumb	...	1
Dorsal Scoliosis	...	...	1	Talipes Planus, Pes Planus	...	2
Outward Curved Tibiae	...	...	18	Metatarsal Varus	...	2
Pes Plano Valgus	...	...	3	Cavo Varus	...	1
Hemiplegia	...	...	1	Deficient Finger on Hand	...	1
Congenital Equino Varus	...	...	6	Curvature of Spine	...	1
Genu Valgum and Genu Varus	...	...	1	Hip trouble	...	1
Talipes	...	...	2			
						75

His recommendations were as follows :—

For admission to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Great Portland Street	...	...	...	...	...	4
For admission to the Country Branch of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Brockley Hill	...	...	...	...	...	6
To wear Splints or other apparatus	...	...	...	...	...	22
To have alterations to Boots	...	...	...	...	...	13
To see X-Ray Specialist	...	...	...	...	...	6
Observation	...	...	...	...	...	2
No treatment required	...	...	...	...	...	9
Re-examination	...	...	...	...	...	4

Anti-rachitic diet	...	...	...	...	...	4
Encourage child to walk		...	...	...	...	1
Massage and night shoe		...	...	...	...	1
Children's Hospital for Spina Bifida			...	...	...	1
Exercises	...	...	...	...	...	1
Manipulation and Splint		...	...	...	...	1

He also made at the Newport Clinic 35 re-examinations of children who had received treatment at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital.

During the year 17 infants were sent to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital or its Country Branch at Stanmore, Middlesex.

The defects from which they suffered were as follows:—

Congenital Equino Varus	...	2	Infantile Paralysis	...	...	1
Congenital Dislocation, Hip	...	3	Diseased Hip	...	...	1
Severe Rickets	...	2	Hemiplegia	...	...	2
Talipes	...	2	Cava Varus	...	...	1
Dorsal Scoliosis	...	1	Genu Valgum	...	...	1
Left Torticollis	...	1				

Since the inception of the scheme 82 infants and children under 5 years of age have received treatment at the Hospital.

Upon discharge of the children from the Orthopædic Hospital, the County Medical Officer takes charge of their after-care. He sees them periodically at the Central Orthopædic Clinic, Newport, and at the Clinics at Crumlin and Pengam, and supervises their massage and electrical treatment and appropriate after-care when necessary. A close watch is kept upon the surgical boots and instruments which have been supplied to the children, to see that they are properly and constantly worn and continue to be suitable. During the year 1931 he examined and kept under supervision 123 crippled infant children, including cases of first diagnosis and re-examinations.

Ten infants attended the Clinic for massage and electrical treatment during the year, making 239 attendances.

Two walking instruments, fifteen splints, eight night shoes, one patten and eight pairs of surgical boots, four boots with valgus wedges, were supplied for these children by the County Council. Alterations to boots were made for 29 children and three alterations to walking instruments. The total cost in this connection was £50 . 11s. 8d., of which the parents paid £28 . 7s. 9d., leaving a net cost to the Council of £22 . 3s. 11d. Infants suffering from Surgical Tuberculosis are treated at the Hospitals of the Welsh National Memorial Association.

2.—HOSTEL FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS.—The Maternity Home and Hostel at Nantyderry continues its good work. There are 12 beds at the Institution, and the number of girls admitted there during the year was 15, the average duration of stay being 151.5 days. 14 babies were born. The total number of inmates during the year (including those who were admitted in the previous year) was 23 girls and 13 babies.

Twenty-one girls were discharged, of whom five were found situations, 13 went to relatives and three to Homes. Of the babies discharged five were with their grandmothers, two went to Homes, two were adopted, and two went with mothers to situations.

Of the 23 girls resident in the Hostel during the year, four were from the Borough of Newport, 16 from the County of Monmouth, two from Gloucester, and one from Herefordshire.

Generally the girls are admitted one month before their confinement, and remain for six months after the birth of the child. As far as possible the mother and child are not separated for at least the first six months of the infant's life.

During their stay at the Hostel the mothers are trained to undertake some useful work when they leave, and arrangements are made when necessary for the boarding out of the baby.

It is in this connection that the difficult work of the Hostel begins. Fortunately, the world is not so prejudiced against the unmarried mother as it was a few years ago. If a girl has profited by the training given at the Hostel it is easy to place her in a good situation. Then the problem of the disposal of the baby arises. The mothers are generally not willing to allow their children to be adopted, nor to go to foster homes. They want to be able to reclaim them at the earliest possible moment.

It will, therefore, be readily understood what a splendid part the Hostel plays in the life of the community.

3.—MEDICAL ATTENDANCE AT CONFINEMENTS.—Under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918, the County Council are responsible for the payment of fees of medical practitioners called by midwives in cases of emergency, under certain specified conditions.

Fees were paid in 202 cases during the year, involving a payment of £358 18s. 0d. The Council have power to recover the whole or part of such fees from the husbands, and the total amount collected in this way by the Finance Department was £29 5s.0d. The figures for the year 1930 were 225 cases, costing £420 7s. 6d. Amount collected from husbands, £24 6s. 10d.

All these cases are investigated at the homes by the County Officers before they are passed by the County Medical Officer.

4.—PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.—The old Poor-Law Institutions of the County are now under the control of the County Council, and the following table shows the accommodation available for maternity cases, and its use during the period 1st January, 1931, to 31st December, 1931 :—

Public Institutions	Aber-gavenny	Tredegar	Chepstow	Monmouth	Caerleon	Pontypool	Total
Number of Maternity Beds	2	6	2	—	—	4	14
Number of Confinements during year	6	20	7	—	—	8	41

5.—DIFFICULT LABOUR CASES.—Facilities for consultation with Dr. G. I. Strachan, M.D., F.R.C.S., Senior Assistant Gynæcologist of the Welsh National Medical School, and the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, are provided for these cases, and hospital treatment given when necessary.

Thirty-five cases were examined by Dr. Strachan, and 29 of them were subsequently admitted to the Maternity Hospital of the Cardiff Royal Infirmary. Seven cases recommended by the County Council were admitted to the Tredegar Maternity Home and two to Gloucester Maternity Homes during the year, as the conditions for the confinement of the women in their own homes were unsuitable.

6.—DENTAL TREATMENT.—Mr. C. J. Hurry Riches, L.D.S., R.C.S., Senior School Dentist under the Education Committee, devotes one half-day per week to dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers, and also children under five years of age. Each Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the County is visited by Mr. Riches, and advice given to expectant and nursing mothers who have carious teeth. Treatment (extractions only) of those who desire it is afterwards given at the nearest County School Clinic. The treatment figures for the year are as follows :—

No. of appointments made	...	961
No. of appointments kept	...	574
No. of cases given " gas "	...	563
No. of permanent teeth extracted	...	3165
No. of temporary teeth extracted	...	452
No. of mothers treated	...	464
No. of children treated	...	99

The treatment is limited to extraction of defective teeth. Mothers who require dentures have to make their own arrangements.

7.—REGISTRATION OF MATERNITY HOMES.—Five Homes have been registered under the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, one at Tredegar (Maternity and Nursing), one at Nantyderry (Maternity), one at Tref-ap-Gwilym, Cardiff Road, Newport (Maternity), one at Abergavenny (Maternity), and one at Highfield, Bassaleg (Nursing). One application for registration was refused as the person in charge was not a qualified midwife. Powers of inspection of the Homes are given to the County Medical Officer, and are carried out. All the registered Homes were found to be satisfactory at the annual inspection.

One exemption was granted, this being in respect of the Monmouth Hospital, Monmouth.

Q.—INFANT PROTECTION.

By the Local Government Act of 1929, the functions under Part I. of the Children Act, 1908, dealing with the visitation of children under the age of seven years, adopted for reward, were transferred from the old Boards of Guardians to County Councils.

The Act came into force on the 1st April, 1930, since which date one of the Council's Health Visitors has undertaken the duties. There are 40 infants on the County Register, and a visit of inspection is paid every three months to see that the health and home circumstances of the infants are satisfactory.

All the cases were visited during the year and there were no complaints of the care bestowed upon them. One child died, as the result of a motor accident.

R.—CONCLUSIONS.

It was rather too much to expect that last year's record low infant mortality rate would be maintained, having regard to the economic distress prevailing in the area. It has increased from 64.9 to 71.9 per 1,000 births, and even so, the rate is satisfactory, compared with the figures of a few years ago. The increase in the rate this year is specially due to bronchitis and pneumonia, probably the result of the exceptionally wet year.

The factors conducive to a low infant mortality rate include effective Ante-natal and infant supervision, efficient midwifery service, good housing, sanitation and social conditions. The County is fairly well equipped in respect of Ante-natal and infant supervision, although, were the economic conditions more favourable, suggestions could be made for much needed extension of Clinic facilities. The midwifery service is rapidly improving, as the old, untrained midwives are disappearing from the Roll.

It would appear that a further reduction in the infant mortality rate might be expected through an improvement in the housing and social conditions. These are largely matters which come under the jurisdiction of the Local District Councils, and, at present, the outlook is not promising.

The maternal mortality rate (5.36 per 1,000 live births) is still high, but it has not increased since the County Ante-natal Clinics have been opened. The attendances at these Clinics are growing, and several of them are seriously overcrowded. It is impossible to give them additional sessions without increasing the medical staff, and as the present policy of the Council, necessitated by financial stringency, is to cut down the expenditure on Maternity and Child Welfare, there seems to be very little hope of an early extension of Ante-natal facilities; in fact, some of the present facilities may have to be abandoned.

This is disappointing and disquieting, as effective Ante-natal supervision is one of the chief recommendations of the Interim Report of the Maternal Mortality Committee set up by the Ministry of Health.

Another of the recommendations is the provision of hospital beds for such maternity cases as need special institutional care. At this time last year it was anticipated that the Council would have opened the Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital, a building which they own and which is splendidly adapted to meet the urgent need for such an institution, but when, later in the year, the question of ways and means for equipping the hospital were discussed, it was found that the money was not available, and this worthy scheme, which would have given many a poor mother a fighting chance to pull through a difficult confinement, has had to be shelved for the time being.

The valuable help given to Maternity and Child Welfare in the County by the Save the Children Fund must again be recorded. The fund is an International effort for preserving child life wherever it is menaced by conditions of economic distress, and for raising the standards of child care throughout the world.

In addition to equipping the 16 Ante-natal Clinics of the County, the fund has been responsible for several grants of money for the purpose of providing milk for infants between the ages of two and five years, who do not come within the County scheme. Several generous benefactors of the fund have also "adopted" children in this County, and sums of money are periodically sent for these infants, the administration being through the Assistant Medical Officers of the Council. The results are so appreciable that it is to be regretted that only a few infants can benefit where many other equally deserving cases exist.

The County funds assist in a large degree in ensuring that expectant and nursing mothers and infants shall not unduly suffer during the period of distress through which the County is passing. The value of fresh and dried milk given to necessitous cases during the year totalled £5,941 2s. 6d. With the exception of 1921, the year of the coal stoppage, this is the largest amount ever given. Practically all the recipients were the wives and infants of unemployed men.

The average attendance of infants at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres reached the high figure of 42.2 per session. Probably this record attendance was due to the number of mothers seeking free milk for their children, but as all the infants have to be seen by the Medical Officers at the Centres some good is bound to accrue in the vast majority of cases.

The orthopædic scheme continues to be carried on to its full extent, and the beneficent results detailed earlier in this report emphasise the importance of Hospitals and Clinics for orthopædic treatment, and the great value of discovering possible cripples at an early age.

In conclusion, we repeat that there is probably no item of the County's expenditure which gives better value than the work reviewed in this report. Maternity and Child Welfare gives an excellent return for the money spent upon it, but there is an urgent call for expansion by way of Maternity Hospital provision and additional Ante-natal Clinic facilities. It is our bounden duty to improve the health and efficiency of the race, and money expended in this direction is money well spent. The work already done has made the mother of to-day much more qualified to rear a family than was the mother of 20 years ago. It would be a pity to retard it.

We again thank the voluntary helpers and the members of the District Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for the assistance given at the Centres. We also gratefully record our appreciation of the continued support afforded by the Chairman and Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

D. ROCYN JONES,

County Medical Officer.